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Hafa Adai!

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75¢

240-day grace period for CW renewals effective on Feb. 14

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

If their papers aren’t in yet, foreign workers kept from working because of the federal government’s delay in processing thousands of contract worker permit renewals can get back on the job starting Feb. 14, after U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson signed off on a rule to allow a 240-day grace period for these waiting CW-1 workers.

The rule has been a long time coming since being published in the *Federal Register* for public comments in May 2014, and will become effective in February, a month after it’s published on the

See CW on Page 4

HONORING INOS

Then-Board of Regents chair Juan Lizama presents Dora Anne Inos Deleon Guerrero and Christine Mae Inos yesterday with a resolution that the board had passed to honor their father, the late governor Eloy S. Inos.

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

See story on Page 3

Rabauliman is new BOR chair

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

Frank Rabauliman was voted unanimously as the new chairman of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents yesterday.

In a meeting yesterday, the board added the election of new officers to their agenda.

After being the only one nominated and voted to be the new chair, Rabauliman took the helm of the Board of Regents.

The board went into a brief executive session after the election.

“Our current chair has noted that he is resigning. He has asked that his resignation will be effective in 10 days but he will accept whatever the board decided. The board has de-

See RABAULIMAN on Page 4

Dynasty’s bankruptcy petition dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI Bankruptcy Division granted the U.S. Trustee’s motion yesterday to dismiss the bankruptcy petition filed by the owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Robert J. Faris rendered moot all the other pending motions filed in the case.

» U.S. Trustee says HKE lacks insurance, lacks reasonable likelihood of rehabilitation

According to the minutes of the hearing, the decision does not preclude Tinian Dynasty’s owner, Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Ltd., from once again filing the Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition.

Faris conducted the hearing via video teleconference from the Bankruptcy Court for the District of Hawaii. Assistant U.S. Trustee Curtis Ching appeared via video teleconference, also from the District of Hawaii. Attorney Timothy H. Bellas, counsel for HKE, was present in

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INSIDE

ASIA

At least three suicide bombers explode themselves in a Starbucks cafe in Jakarta.

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WORLD

Kurdish rebels detonate a car bomb at a police station in Turkey, killing five people.

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LIFE & STYLE

Best Sunshine gives back to the community one village at a time.

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Local

'CUC foreign workers get CW-1 permit renewals'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

As of Wednesday, 17 of the 18 Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s foreign workers that joined CUC in suing Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Charles Johnson and other federal officials for the delay in the renewal of their Commonwealth-only worker, or CW-1 permits have received approvals of their petition.

CUC counsel James Sirok said the utilities agency has one non-plaintiff foreign employee whose authorization expired on Dec. 31, 2015, and is not working. CUC received a request for evidence for this non-plaintiff foreign employee, he said, which further delays a determination on the petition for renewal.

The lawyer disclosed on Wednesday, among other things, the update on CUC's petition for renewal of their CW-1 workers in their response to the federal court's order to show cause.

On Tuesday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered CUC and the 18 workers to explain why their lawsuit should not be dismissed as moot.

Manglona issued the order after granting the plaintiffs' motion to withdraw their petition for a preliminary injunction. She also granted the plaintiffs' request to vacate the hearing on the motion for preliminary injunction.

In his response, Sirok said there is still a justiciable issue as not all CUC CW-1 employees whose authorizations expired on Dec. 31, 2015, have received permits.

Sirok said there will be further petitions for renewals submitted by CUC this year and in the following years.

More importantly, Sirok said, what CUC has sought—and continues to seek under its amended complaint—is a declaration from the court that the position being taken by DHS and USCIS is contrary to law.

The lawyer said this declaratory relief is not moot, and would not be moot even if USCIS had provided all of its foreign employees with approvals of its petitions for renewal.

"While, in this instance, there is no longer a need for preliminary injunctive relief, and because the utility will continue to petition for the renewal of its CW-1 workers in the future, there is still a need within the utility for a decision clarifying whether its CW-1 workers can continue to work after the expiration of their authorizations while USCIS is still adjudicating their petitions."

Sirok said the fact that a preliminary injunction has become moot does not itself mean that the case as a whole should be dismissed.

The lawyer noted that during the temporary restraining order hearing, Manglona suggested that had CUC filed its petitions for renewal of the CW-1 plaintiff's authorizations 90 days in advance rather than on Dec. 28, 2015, it probably would not have needed to be in court requesting relief.

However, Sirok pointed out, there was no evidence presented by Johnson and co-defendants that that would have been the case.

Further, Sirok said, the evidence that was before the court, via CUC acting executive director Gary P. Camacho and in the newspaper reports on the day of the TRO hearing, made it clear that employers in the CNMI and the many hundreds of their CW-1 workers, together with the economy of the CNMI, were suffering from the inaction of USCIS when petitions for renewal had been filed 90 or more days in advance of the expiration dates.

Sirok said the situation had reached such a level that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres wrote the U.S. President about the issue.

Sirok said CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) even visited the processing facilities where these petitions are being adjudicated in efforts to get these many hundreds of unemployed CW-1 workers back to work.

CUC currently employs 34 non-resident workers that hold the CW-1 CNMI only non-immigrant transitional worker status.

Sirok said CUC will be continuing to petition for the renewal of its CW-1 workers until the Transitional Worker Program created by the Consolidated Natural Resources Act ends on Dec. 31, 2019, or until the utilities agency, through an apprenticeship program or because of other intervening circumstances, is no longer required to be reliant on the continued employment of a foreign worker.

Simply put, Sirok said, each of the plaintiffs continue to have an interest in ensuring that DHS and USCIS comply with the relevant provisions of the U.S. Administrative Procedure Act and their regulations related to the CW-1 Transitional Worker Program.

Sirok said each of the plaintiffs also have an interest in ensuring that the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement does not enforce a stop work order during the period of time a petition for renewal is pending past the expiration date stated on their CW-1 authorizations.

Sirok earlier told *Saipan Tribune* the case is not dismissed because he only withdrew the motion for injunctive relief as it is no longer needed.

Sirok said their injunctive relief request was based on their need for immediate and preliminary injunctive relief related to the CW-1 workers' ability to work for CUC during the pendency of USCIS' review of their CW-1 petitions for the renewal of their CW-1 statuses.

Last week, Manglona denied the request of CUC and 18 of its affected foreign workers for a temporary restraining order that would allow these CW-1 workers to immediately return to work.

Manglona said plaintiffs, however, may still pursue their claim for a permanent injunction.

On Thursday, last week, Sirok also filed plaintiffs' first amended complaint against the same defendants—Homeland Security Secretary Johnson, Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director Sarah Saldana, and USCIS Director Leon Rodriguez.

In the first amended complaint, Sirok added a claim that plaintiffs are able to work after the expiration date of their respective authorizations so long as the authorizations remain valid in accordance with law.

The first amended complaint retains the plaintiffs' two original claims—that the position of USCIS violates the Administrative Procedure Act and that the position by DHS and USCIS violates the Article II, Section 3 constitutional obligation of the executive to take care that laws are faithfully executed.

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Intensive search on for brown tree snakes in Dandan

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

Various agencies have responded to two brown tree snake sightings on Saipan. According to the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife, the sightings happened in the Dandan area northeast of the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport.

The sightings were reported by Dandan residents to the CNMI Brown Tree Snake program on Jan. 2 and Jan. 8 but the actual sightings occurred about two weeks earlier.

According to DFW, expert investigators conducted detailed interviews and deemed those reports credible.

"A brown tree snake sighting in the CNMI is serious business," DFW director Manny Pangelinan said. "This effort requires the people's involvement to make sure the brown tree snake is killed and does not establish itself on Saipan."

An interagency Brown Tree Snake Rapid Response Team was activated and a team of six highly trained searchers was deployed by the U.S. Geological Survey in Guam to work alongside 13 biologists and staff of DFW and the CNMI BTS Coordinator from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

USGS will remain on island through Jan. 24 to coordinate the search effort. DLNR-DFW will continue long-term trapping, nighttime snake searches, and bird and snake prey

See SNAKES on Page 4

NMC Board of Regents honors Inos' life and service

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

The Board of Regents of the Northern Marianas College passed a resolution to honor the late governor Eloy S. Inos yesterday.

During their board meeting at the college, the regents adopted the resolution to honor Inos' life and service as he had "unreservedly dedicated his life to public service and whose leadership has enhanced the educational landscape in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and improved the lives of all residents of the CNMI."

Inos passed away last Dec. 29 and was laid to rest just last Tuesday.

Present at the adoption of the resolution were Inos' daughters, Dora Anne Inos Deleon Guerrero and Christine Mae Inos, who appreciated the move of the board.

The resolution noted that "Inos' professional career has been defined by a distinguished record of advancing the public good, having occupied numerous offices, roles, and positions where he worked tirelessly to make government effective and make the delivery of public service efficient."

It also noted Inos' rise to leadership positions in both private and public sectors prior to being elected as the head of state of the CNMI.

The board also took note of Inos' support and encouragement for the college, enabling them to achieve accreditation reaffirmation and other milestone accomplishments.

"During his term as lieutenant governor and then later governor, Gov. Inos has continued to support the Northern Marianas College, especially during a time when the college faced one of its most difficult challenges and was placed on show cause status," the resolution reads.

"Governor Inos has never ceased to be a steadfast supporter of the mission of Northern Marianas College to advance the lives of all Commonwealth residents by providing high quality, affordable, and accessible postsecondary programs and services," it adds.

The resolution added that NMC and all its students, employees and Board of Regents commend the years of service and contributions that Inos has given to the Commonwealth over his lifetime and consider his passing as a "significant loss" for the college, the CNMI, and the entire Pacific region.

"The Board of Regents wishes to ensure that Gov. Inos' remarkable legacy is continued and hereby approves this resolution to honor a man known for his wisdom, integrity, and generosity," the resolution states.

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CONGRATULATIONS!

On January 8, 2016, Mrs. Cepeda went to Happy Market for some grocery shopping. She bought three tickets of every Instant Scratchies design to support the Northern Mariana Sports Association fundraising program and for the fun of the game. She scratched her first ticket and was thrilled to learn that it was the $1000 winning ticket. She was so thrilled to have won for the second time playing Instant Scratchies.

DYNASTY

From Page 1

the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Ching argued U.S. Trustee's motion to dismiss. Bellas argued on behalf of HKE.

According to Ching, HKE lacks appropriate insurance and has not complied with the U.S. Trustee's standard request for background documents.

Ching also noted that HKE appears to be incurring substantial losses and lacks a reasonable likelihood of rehabilitation.

Specifically, Ching said, HKE has admitted that it has no general liability insurance and no property insurance. HKE's insurance broker, Trader's Insurance, has confirmed this, he said.

Ching said HKE claims to have vehicle insurance for its 12 vehicles but has not provided the U.S. Trustee with documents verifying this insurance.

Ching said that Traders Insurance has stated that one policy covering several vehicles expired on Dec. 31, 2015, and other vehicle insurance policies will be cancelled in January 2016.

HKE, he said, informed the U.S. Trustee that it believed it lacked worker's compensation insurance, but Traders Insurance indicated that the worker's compensation policy would be cancelled on Jan. 2, 2016.

According to Traders Insurance, HKE must pay the outstanding premium totaling $308,280.22 in order to obtain renewed coverage.

Ching said HKE does not have general liability, property, worker's compensation, and liquor liability insurance.

HKE also lacks typhoon insurance.

"The lack of any appropriate insurance puts estate assets and the public at risk for uninsured loss," Ching said.

He said Tinian Dynasty continues to operate, albeit at a slower place, while in Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

Ching said hotel guests and visitors could be injured while on Tinian Dynasty's premises.

"Such injuries place the estate's assets at risk and pose risks for guests and customers for uninsured loss," he said.

Ching also noted that hundreds of HKE's employees reside in HKE property, which means the lack of insurance places these workers at risk as well.

HKE, Ching said, should not be allowed to operate under the protections of Chapter II bankruptcy laws while leaving estate assets, its own employees, and its customers at risk for potential injury that would not be covered.

Ching said that on Dec. 16, 2015, the U.S. Trustee made a standard request in Chapter 11 cases for HKE to provide certain documents, yet HKE has failed to provide these documents such as debtor-in possession bank account information, real property questionnaire, six-month profit and loss projection, physical inventory (food, beverage, items for sale), bank statements for the last six months, and check registers for the last six months.

HKE also failed to provide tax returns for the last two years, list of management employees and current compensation including benefits, list of officers and directors and compensation including benefits paid within the last 12 months, and certificate of insurance for vehicles.

Ching said the documents should be readily available to HKE such as bank statements, check registers, and tax returns or easily prepared like the real property questionnaire.

The documents, he said, should assist not only the U.S. Trustee in its review but also HKE in planning its course in this case.

"The debtor's failure to produce these documents in a timely manner raises numerous red flags," Ching said.

The U.S. Trustee is concerned that HKE, which has a history of law enforcement issues, "will not be forthcoming about its financial affairs."

If HKE does not have easy access to its basic financial documents, Ching said this raises questions about the veracity of its sworn disclosures in its statement of financial affairs.

"How, for example, would the debtor know that no disbursements were made to insiders in the year prior to filing unless it had bank statements and check registers?" Ching asked.

Ching said the U.S. Trustee cannot fulfill its duty to oversee Chapter II cases without HKE's basic cooperation.

Ching said the U.S. Trustee and other parties in interest are entitled to review financial information regarding HKE's operations.

On the likelihood of Tinian Dynasty's rehabilitation, Ching said HKE is likely accruing substantial losses while it is in Chapter 11. According to HKE's bankruptcy petition, HKE has three secured creditors that are owed about $195 million.

"None of the three claims is disputed," Ching said.

Even assuming interest-only payments at a modest 1 percent rate, the monthly payment would be $162,500, he said.

Ching said HKE may also be accruing wage obligations to its employees, including those who are residing at HKE's property without pay.

HKE is also incurring various gaming fees owed to the CNMI government.

Ching said the only significant income being generated by HKE is its sale of pre-paid tours.

Ching said if HKE is unable to provide timely casino access, that income will very quickly cease.

In the longer term, Ching said, HKE lacks a reasonable likelihood of rehabilitation.

HKE values itself at $55 million, but its secured debts alone exceed $194 million, and unsecured debts total over $78 million more.

Ching said HKE lacks the ability to reorganize because it has apparently been operating without permission to use cash collateral, does not appear to have the ability to make adequate protection payments, and cannot operate without the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission's consent.

Other reasons, Ching said, is that HKE had virtually no income as the time of filing for bankruptcy, HKE lacks adequate insurance, and has recently been prosecuted criminally and civilly fined for its failures to comply with financial reporting requirements under federal law.

HKE's request for more time to file opposition was denied on Tuesday.

HKE counsel Bellas said HKE, while a local corporation, has substantial contacts with Hong Kong and as such communications can be time consuming.

Bellas said despite such obstacles, HKE has made considerable efforts to comply with requests for financial and other information requested by the U.S. Trustee.

Bellas said many of the issues raised in the motion to dismiss require additional time in order to provide responses.

CW

From Page 1

Federal Register this Jan. 15.

The rule grants a grace period for CW workers to continue working if an application for a new permit was filed before the old permit expired and if the new permit is still waiting approval. It also fixes inconsistency that allows for a loophole CW workers who change employers to continue working. Currently, a CW-1 worker who changes employer may continue working for up to 240 days while the new employer's petition is pending. In the case of renewal petitions, however, the worker cannot stay on the job once their permit has expired, even if a petition for renewal was filed months in advance. The new rule means that the workers who are being renewed will get the same extended work authorization as workers who are transfers from one employer to another or who are terminated and then find a new employer.

"It's about time," said Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) in a statement yesterday. "The disruption to the Northern Marianas economy, the lost income of businesses and workers—that is still going on—would have been completely avoided if USCIS had not waited over a year and half to finalize this rule."

While the business community has expressed elation over the new rule, it does little to assure or ease the negative effects already being experienced on the ground, with the short business hours, closed shops or restaurants, and out-of-work residents continuing their toll on businesses and livelihoods.

The fiasco came about after U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services failed to process a backlog of 2,800 CW permit renewals by the beginning of the new year.

All these 2,800 employees comprise 23 percent of the CNMI's total foreign national workforce base, Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan said yesterday. Practically every mom-and-pop business in the Commonwealth was impacted or affected by the lack of CW workers, Sablan said.

He said business leaders had hoped that the rule would have been implemented prior to the end of last year, relieving a considerable amount of "heartache and loss of business and individual worker opportunity." Instead, employers have had to shut down their businesses or downsize their business to a level where they are not allowed to have full opportunity.

"At this stage, [the new rule] would help—God forbid—if we have another incident like this next year," said Sablan. He hopes this is not repeated next year and USCIS has the manpower and capability to get all permits out "regardless of when they are placed in order of acceptance," as permit submitted even within 90 days of expiration should be processed.

'No adverse economic impact'

The federal law that wrested control of immigration from the local to federal government assured that the transition would be implemented in a way that "minimizes adverse economic impact," according to Delegate Sablan.

"Many times over the last seven years USCIS has made choices that were consistent with that requirement to minimize negative impacts," he said, "and we should not forget that. But not this time. The delay in approving this rule has definitely hurt the people I represent."

"They didn't fulfill their promise," added Alex Sablan.

In a statement, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres called the new rule a step in the right direction and applauded Delegate Sablan for "his untiring efforts to resolve this issue with our federal counterparts."

"We are not done yet and discussions on improvements will be ongoing," said Torres. "I also extend the Commonwealth's appreciation to Sen. Murkowski of Alaska who serves as the chairwoman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee that oversees issues regarding insular areas. In my communication with the senator's office, I was informed that she recognized our concerns and had communicated with USCIS to assist in resolving this current matter."

Delegate Sablan said the new rule is an improvement to the immigration system overall, but not a solution to the ongoing problem of delayed CW processing.

"I call on U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to continue to use all its resources to clear the backlog of CW applications as quickly as possible, so that the Northern Marianas can get back to business."

Sablan spoke directly with USCIS Director León Rodríguez on Jan. 3 to demand action on the processing delay and make clear what it costs Marianas businesses and workers. And the congressman met last week directly with USCIS staff in California who are responsible for the processing to drive that point home.

Sablan also urged Rodríguez to get the 240-day rule approved immediately.

The rule was originally opened for public comment on May 12, 2014, in response to a Dec. 20, 2012, request from the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Society for Human Resource Management CNMI. All six comments received by USCIS favored the 240-day grace period for delayed processing.

Once the new rule goes into effect on Feb. 14, any worker whose employer files a renewal petition before the worker's CW-1 permit expires will be able to stay on the job legally for up to an additional 240 days.

The new rule also covers workers with H-1B1 or E-3 visas. The H-1B1 program allows employers to temporarily employ foreign workers from Chile and Singapore in the U.S. on a nonimmigrant basis in specialty occupations. The E-3 does the same for workers from Australia. Both categories have annual numerical caps, similar to the cap on CW-1 permits.

RABAULIMAN

From Page 1

cided that the chair resignation will be effective today at the time of the board's election," board treasurer Michaela Sanchez stated on record after the closed-door session.

Former chair Juan T. Lizama, who was present during the early part of the meeting, wasn't present during the election of officers.

Prior to leaving early, he left the board a message to "do what you have to do."

"Our new chair is Frank Rabauliman," Sanchez added.

Rabauliman thanked the board and urged them to be ready. "I want to thank everybody for the vote of confidence. I encourage everybody to roll up your sleeves because it's going to be a very interesting year, there's a lot to do. I'm sure you all know."

Rabauliman said that their priority is the creation of a team that will search for the next president of the college.

"First order of business is establishing the search team. In addition to other stuff that includes forming the committees, we need to form an audit committee and to be in compliance with what [Western Association of Schools and Colleges] requires," Rabauliman said.

This will be Rabauliman's second stint as Board of Regents chairman.

Other officers were also elected. Elaine Orilla was elected vice chair and Sanchez was again treasurer. Both were elected via acclamation.

"I'm asking everyone to join hands and join hearts and work together and move on," Sanchez said.

NMC president Dr. Sharon Hart said she will continue to work closely with the board and with the new leadership.

"I work will all members of the board and I've worked with Frank Rabauliman before and I will continue to work with any board chairman," Hart said. "I will work with him accordingly and look forward to it as well."

SNAKES

From Page 3

monitoring.

The team has been establishing search transects, cutting trails, doing night searches, and setting snake traps to cover the area the snake or snakes may have reached. Over 80 mouse-baited traps have been set.

According to Wildlife Section supervisor Anne Orlando, brown tree snakes tend to move and search for prey at night and around dawn and dusk. Because of this, searchers wearing orange safety vests are using high-powered headlamps to carefully search the ground and trees for 4 to 5 hours nightly.

According to a BTS expert from USGS in Guam, if one happens to see a brown tree snake, it is best to approach it slowly and not scare it away, then hit it with a sharp object, preferably decapitating it or cutting it in half.

10 individuals working under NDW grant

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

A handful of individuals have been able to work under a grant awarded to the CNMI government by the U.S. Department of Labor.

According to CNMI Labor Secretary Edith DeLeon Guerrero, about 10 individuals are currently funded under the National Dislocated Workers Grant.

"We did pass some individuals already that are funded under the program as monitors of the collection of debris. I believe we are funding currently under the program about 10 individuals and we're paying them the federal minimum wage," DeLeon Guerrero said.

The federal minimum wage is $7.25 per hour.

DeLeon Guerrero said the program is not fully launched yet but they are working with other agencies for some projects.

"We're still working closely with the [Saipan] Mayor's Office," DeLeon Guerrero said. "We work hand in hand with the office of the Department of Public Works as well. All these key agencies, I'll be working closely with."

A total of $6 million was awarded to the CNMI last September to aid in the recovery efforts after Typhoon Soudelor. The first disbursement amounted to $500,000.

According to DeLeon Guerrero, part of the funding is also being used for administrative costs, which includes recruiting personnel to operate the program.

"That right now is pending for announcement. It is temporary but it does offer a good salary for a temporary job," DeLeon Guerrero said.

The grant would be good for 12 months but DeLeon Guerrero said she can request for an extension; otherwise the funding will be re-obligated.

"When you don't fully extend the funds, then naturally it will return to the federal government. That's how it works. But as much as possible we want to fully extend it prudently and with accordance to the grant conditions," she said.

SCC and ITS team up for customer service seminar

The popularity of the monthly training seminars offered by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce in 2015 has prompted a new partnership. For 2016, the chamber will co-sponsor with Island Training Solutions to provide three-hour workshops on customer service, motivation and attitude, time management, sales and relationship building, and supervisory skills. These topics are sure to enhance the image of your business as your employees increase their ability to provide top level service.

The first seminar, "Fill'er Up!" With Excellence, is a customer service workshop. Is your customer service the best is can be? Would you like some easy-to-implement concepts that will help you attract and retain customers? If so, this seminar is for you! Start the New Year with a new attitude toward customer service. This interactive seminar, presented by feature speaker Jim Arenovski, will elevate your business's customer service by teaching concepts for personal and business success.

Two sessions of this seminar will be offered. The morning session is already sold out but space is available for a repeat session in the afternoon from 1:30pm to 4:30pm. The cost per attendee is $50; chamber members receive a $10 discount.

"Fill'er Up" With Excellence is an educational workshop to be held in the Saipan Chamber of Commerce conference room on Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016, from 1:30pm to 4:30pm. Registration for the seminar is now being accepted at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office at the Marianas Business Plaza Suite 315, 3rd floor. Seating is limited to the first 35 paid attendees. To reserve your seat, call 234-7150 or e-mail coordinator@saipanchamber.com. ***(SCC)***

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Koblerville school holds bomb threat drill

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A bomb threat drill was conducted at the Koblerville Elementary School yesterday, just as a "positive" bomb threat in a school in Guam made headlines and shut down two schools for a day.

According to Jack Diaz, the Public School System's program manager for Emergency and Crisis Management, Koblerville Elementary was planned to have their drill tomorrow but they moved it up a day to catch the school off guard.

At 1pm, they sounded the alarm signaling for a supposed bomb threat and for the students to go inside the nearest classrooms as per procedures.

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
Koblerville Elementary School students head to their classrooms as part of a bomb threat drill conducted yesterday afternoon.

"They have to go inside the classroom. They have to be secured in the classrooms, and then the police officers would need to clear their staging area before we get them out and bring them to the staging area," Diaz said.

Most of the students were outside when the drill started.

"It took some time for the kids to realize that something's going on," Diaz said.

He noted that the staging area was too close to the classrooms and they recommended for them to be further from the buildings.

The drill took about 30 minutes.

Diaz said the drill was more of an in-house drill for them to self-evaluate and practice their response. After re-evaluating, they will have a full-on drill with more officers and bomb-sniffing dogs.

"Overall, the school did well," Diaz said.

According to Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan, there are procedures already in place should a bomb threat—as well as other threats and emergencies, natural and otherwise—happen in a school in the CNMI as it did in Guam.

In Guam, classes were cancelled for Simon Sanchez High School and the adjacent F.B. Leon Guerrero Middle School after a bomb threat and bomb-sniffing dogs had "positive response."

"For any kind of emergency, there are steps that we must follow," Sablan said. "Whenever there's a call that there's a threat in the school, we certainly have to take precautionary measures."

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday greetings going out to a wonderful and awesome, wife, mom, and teacher, Catherine Acera-Cabrera, who celebrates her birthday today, Jan. 15. Cheers to many more birthdays to come and may all your birthday wishes and dreams come true! We love you always, from Marlon, Caleb, Calen, Cayli, and your Napu Rider Family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happiest birthday to these two handsome men who will be celebrating their special day on Saturday, Jan. 16. Happy 49th to Jerwin Moded and 24th to Aaron Tagabuel. Enjoy your special day. We love you guys from infinity to Oregon and beyond. Yours truly, Liz, Stef, Mariar, Boy, Char, and the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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US govt settles lawsuit over biometrics delay

»Manglona dismisses ex-Chinese legislator's lawsuit vs USCIS officials

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court has dismissed the lawsuit filed by a former Chinese legislator against U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officials for their alleged inaction on her requests for biometrics that are needed in her court battle to remain in the CNMI.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed Heqian Ma's lawsuit and closed the case after the U.S. government settled the lawsuit.

On Aug. 24, 2015, Ma asked the court to compel USCIS officials to take her biometrics for immigration purposes after months of alleged delays.

Manglona noted that the parties settled the matter just over a week later and have now agreed to dismiss Ma's petition.

In dismissing the case, Manglona said the parties have complied with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

In the parties' stipulation for voluntary dismissal, Ma's counsel, Samuel I. Mok, and U.S. government's counsels, assistant U.S. attorneys Mikel W. Schwab and Jessica F. Cruz, informed the court that the terms of their settlement agreement have been satisfied.

Each party shall bear its own costs and fees, including attorneys' fees.

Under the settlement, the U.S. government agrees to pay $400 (equivalent to the court filing fee) to Ma, who, in turn, will release of her claims in her petition for writ of mandamus.

Ma agrees that their agreement shall not be construed as an admission of any liability or fault of any kind by the U.S., but is "solely the compromise of any past, present, future, and potential contested claims for the purpose of avoiding…further controversy and litigation pertaining to the covered conduct."

Ma filed the petition on Aug. 24, 2015. She contends that she has a right to have her biometrics taken within a reasonable time so that she may be considered and/or granted withholding of removal relief.

The following day, Aug. 25, USCIS, took Ma's biometrics. On Aug. 26, USCIS signed off on quality assurance.

Ma filed her application with the Immigration Court to withhold her removal from Saipan in 2012. On Feb. 12, 2013, the Immigration Court denied her application. She appealed the decision to the Board of Immigration Appeals.

On Dec. 10, 2014, the Board of Immigration Appeals reversed and remanded the Immigration Court's decision to allow Ma time to file sufficient documentation to corroborate her claims.

On Feb. 6, 2015, Ma submitted a request to USCIS for biometrics processing. After failing to receive a response to her request and after being denied biometrics processing as a walk-in customer on Aug. 24, 2015, she filed the lawsuit.

Ma sued USCIS associate director for Service Center Operations Donald Neufeld, USCIS District Director David Gulick, USCIS Director Leon Rodriguez, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson, and U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch.

Ma claimed that she ultimately fled to Saipan after certain Chinese government law enforcement officials severely beat, threatened, and detained her due to her political opinions.

Ma has a pending application before the Saipan Immigration Court, asking the court to withhold her removal from the CNMI on the basis of her fear of being persecuted by the Chinese government on account of her political beliefs.

Mok said the dismissal and/or denial of Ma's application for withholding of removal will result in her deportation to China where the Immigration Court has already found during a prior hearing that it was likely she would suffer persecution by the Chinese government on account of her political beliefs.

According to Mok, Ma was formerly an elected member of the national Chinese legislature and that during her time as a lawmaker, she investigated and filed reports of corruption on certain Chinese government law enforcement officials.

Because of such investigation, Mok said, Ma was severely beaten, threatened, and detained. Ma ultimately fled to Saipan.

In March 2012, Manglona imposed a six-month prison term on Ma, who was convicted of engaging in a fraudulent scheme to invite Chinese nationals to come to the CNMI for non-existing jobs. Ma pleaded guilty to two counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting.

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Bordallo introduces Compact impact relief bill

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo introduced legislation on Wednesday to address Compact impact in affected jurisdictions like Guam, Hawaii, the CNMI, and American Samoa. The bill addresses four areas that would reduce financial impacts borne by local jurisdictions and provide relief to local governments for social services they provide to COFA migrants. The bill is cosponsored by Rep. Mark Takai of Hawaii.

The bill establishes a new formula managed by the Department of Health and Human Services, and reviewed by the Department of the Interior, to increase the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage. This change would permit the affected jurisdictions to use the cumulative amount that they have spent to provide social services to COFA migrants toward the non-federal portion of providing Medicaid to local residents. The provision builds on language included by Bordallo in the fiscal year 2011 National Defense Authorization Act that authorizes the government of Guam to use unreimbursed Compact impact toward the purchase of the Navy's water and wastewater system.

Bordallo

The bill also categorizes elementary and secondary education aged COFA students as federally connected students and make them eligible for Impact Aid funding. Under current law, the federal government provides assistance to help offset the costs incurred by local governments who enroll federally connected children in their school systems. The bill addresses concerns of the Impact Aid community by authorizing additional funding for Impact Aid to account for estimated increases due to including COFA migrants. Bordallo introduced a similar provision in the 112th Congress.

In addition, the bill addresses concerns raised by the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority and would give U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, and lawful permanent residents priority when receiving federal housing assistance. The bill maintains COFA migrants' eligibility to receive housing assistance but ensures that U.S. citizens, nationals, and LPRs are not displaced by limited resources when applying for these benefits. This is identical to a similar provision that Bordallo included in the Omnibus Territories Act in the 113th Congress.

Finally, the bill commissions an independent study to research the viability of the current Compacts and make recommendations on policy alternatives moving forward. The study would provide strategic guidance toward renewing the Compacts in 2023 and ensure that they are administered in the best way moving forward.

"Today I introduced legislation to help address the impact of the Compacts of Free Association on jurisdictions like Guam, Hawaii, CNMI, and American Samoa," said Bordallo. I continue to support the intent of the Compacts, but the costs borne by local governments for providing social services to COFA migrants are unsustainable. Congress must act to provide relief for the affected jurisdictions who have spent millions of local funds to support the Compacts and migrants.

"While I continue to believe that the best solution would be an outright increase to Compact impact—and I am proud to have cosponsored legislation to increase annual mandatory spending to the GAO recommended $185 million—I recognize that the current budget environment makes doing so difficult. The bill that I am introducing provides innovative fixes that would provide much needed relief to our local governments with little cost to taxpayers. This approach is a more budget-friendly way to address this daunting challenge, and I hope that it will help to address concerns that may be raised by fiscally-conservative Republicans.

"I thank Congressman Mark Takai of Hawaii for his support for this bill. I look forward to working with him to advance this bill through the legislative process."

Takai said: "One of my first bills I introduced when I came to Congress, The Compact-Impact Aid Act of 2015, would increase annual funding for regional migrant costs from $30 million to $185 million. I am happy to work with Congresswoman Bordallo on this legislation to find additional ways to require the federal government to send states like Hawaii money to provide social services and lift the burden on our local populations. When the compacts were enacted, Congress was required by law to address adverse impacts on states and territories—it is time that we take action to do so." ***(Office of the Guam Delegate)***

ERRATUM

The article titled "Pohl trains students, counselors to 'rise up'" that was published on Jan. 14, 2016, identified the wrong gym for the Rising Up event. The event will be held at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, not the MHS Gymnasium. Our apologies for the error.

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Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Board Conference Room
2nd floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Bldg.
(Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 12/29/15 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings

Conditional Use Application #2016-0006: City Auto Shop is proposing to operate a general auto shop with paint booth. This use is classified as "Vehicle Repair, General" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This proposal is located on lot #004 D 44 along Puti Tainobiu Avenue in Garapan. This lot is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

Conditional Use Application #2016-0136: Prime Pacific Properties, Inc. dba: Beacon Hill Condominium is proposing to construct and operate an 11 storey condotel with 15 units of two to three storey villas. This use is classified as "Planned Development over 48ft" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This proposal is located on lot #069 D 05 along Isla Drive in Navy Hill. This lot is zoned as Rural.

Conditional Use Application #2016-0143 (Amendment): Castle Project (CNMI), LLC has proposed to amend its Conditional Use Permit to renovate and utilize an additional existing warehouse structure formerly used by Top Fashion Factory for employee quarters. This use is classified as "Institutional Residential" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located in Tanapag on lots 030 B 15 & 030 B 13. These lots are zoned as Mixed Commercial.

C. Communications

D. Old Business
1. Nuisance Abatement and Blighted Properties Maintenance Act (status)

E. New Business
1. Office Operations Reports (Permits, Enforcement)

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

PDM Promoters hauls 1,180 lbs of garbage

PDM Promoters continued their beautification efforts at Saipan's central tourist district last Saturday, collecting 1,060 lbs of garbage.

A total of 10 staff members from Kinpachi Restaurant and 25 members of the Saipan Awaodori Team came together to remove the brush and debris along Paseo de Marianas, Coral Tree Avenue, American Memorial Park, and Beach Road.

The non-profit group's coordinator, Sonia Siwa, shared that the trash collected were composed mostly of beer bottles, cigarette butts, Styrofoam cups, plates, and aluminum cans. The group also did some bush cutting along the Paseo area. ***(Daisy Demapan)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Staff members from Kinpachi Restaurant and members of the Saipan Awaodori Team came together to remove trash from Saipan's central tourist district last Saturday.

Take that first step to prevent cervical cancer

Every seven weeks, a woman in the CNMI is diagnosed with cervical cancer. The month of January is nationally recognized as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, or CCCP, and Breast and Cervical Screening Program, BCSP, under the Division of Public Health's Non-Communicable Disease Bureau, are working together with various community partners to address this disease. Preliminary data from the CNMI Cancer Registry has indicated that a total of 56 women in the CNMI were diagnosed with cervical cancer between 2007 and 2014.

The CCCP and BCSP will be conducting educational presentations at various government agencies, publishing media awareness through the newspaper, radio and Facebook, and contacting women who are due for their Pap test.

Cervical cancer is a cancer that starts in the cervix (the lower, narrow part of the uterus or womb). Most cases of cervical cancer are caused by a high-risk type of HPV. HPV is a virus that is passed from person to person through genital contact, such as vaginal, anal, or oral sex. If the HPV infection does not go away on its own, it may eventually cause cervical cancer. Cervical cancer is the easiest gynecological cancer to prevent with regular screening tests (such as a Pap test and HPV test) and getting the HPV vaccination. Cervical cancer is curable when found and treated at an early stage. Cervical cancer happens most often in women 30 years or older, but all women are at risk.

Smoking, having HIV or reduced immunity, or having given birth to three or more children may increase a woman's risk of developing cancer following a high-risk HPV infection. Women ages 21-29 should get screened for cervical cancer by getting a Pap yest. Women ages 30-64 should get a Pap test *and* a human papillomavirus test. Talk to your provider about how often you should get screened. ***(CHCC)***

Fiscal chair eyes meeting with DoF on $9.18M FY 2015 deficit

Rep. Antonio Sablan, who chairs the House Fiscal Committee, is looking to call on the Department of Finance in the coming weeks to learn the details of the $9.18 million shortfall in fiscal year 2015 revenue projections.

He hopes to have Finance Secretary Larissa Larson present to lawmakers and explain the details of the government's end of the year report.

The Office of the Governor has reported total revenue collections of $125.15 million in fiscal year 2015—short by about $9.18 million compared to the projected revenue for the fiscal year.

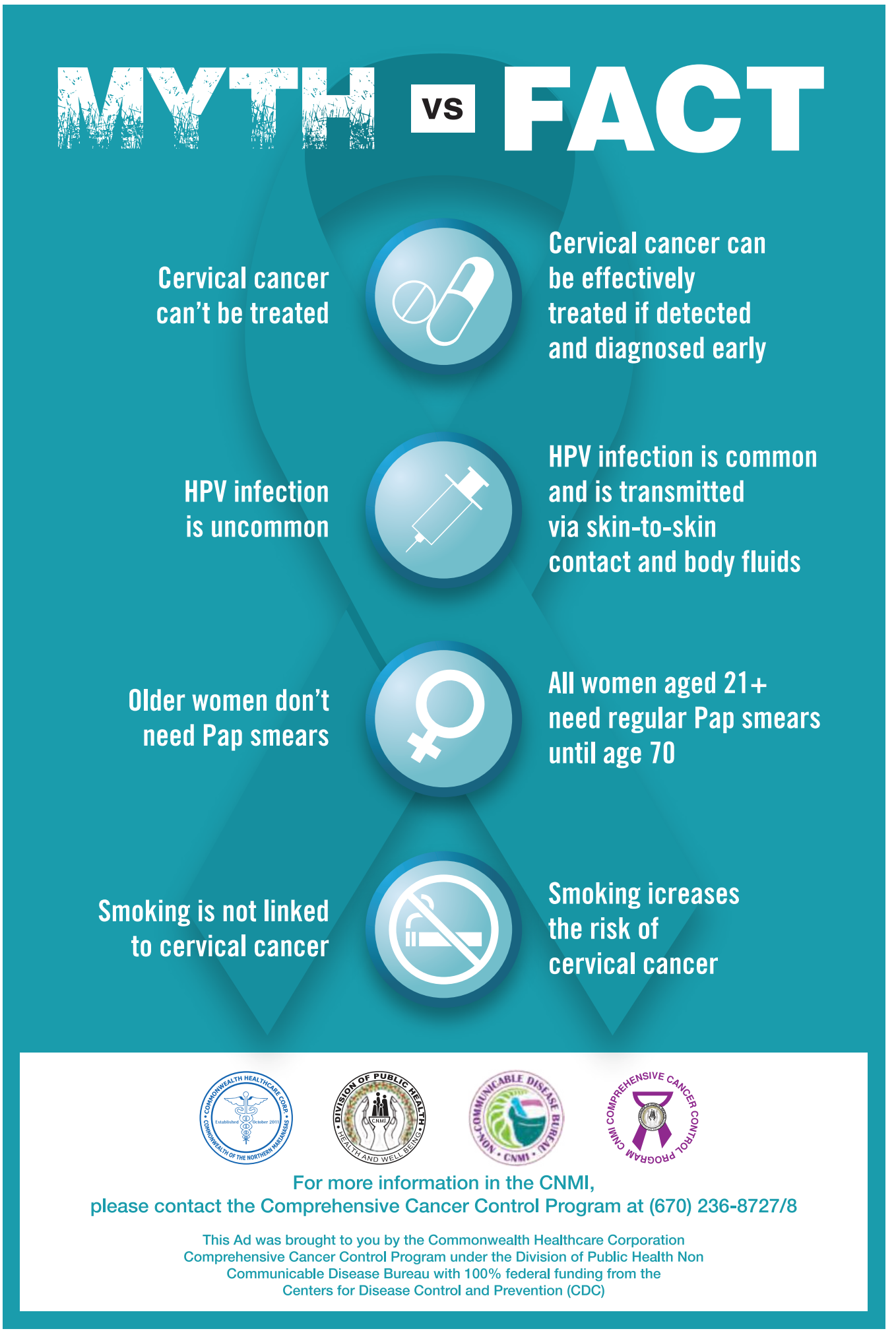
Sablan wants to "to get a clear picture." "…And as a result of that, what we can look forward in fiscal year 2016," he added.

The $9.1 million shortfall means the government's total expenditures exceeded revenues appropriated in last year's Budget Act, with a total expenditure of $143.43 million. The shortfall is largely blamed on Typhoon Soudelor, the passing of nine typhoons last fiscal year, and IT&E's massive network outage in July.

Sablan said the deficit—which came at the close of the fiscal year—"had to be expected."

He hopes that—as a result of the recovery activities from October last year to the present—what the CNMI lost in revenue can be made up for in fiscal 2016, as reimbursements from federal government comes in and households and business are able to spend.

Sablan hopes the current situation, with the federal government's delay in processing more than 2,000 contract worker permit renewals, does not add to the negative situation in regards to revenue projections and collections. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***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MA library scholarship for US Pacific extended to Jan. 30

By DAISY DEMAPAN
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The University of North Texas Department of Library and Information Sciences is again offering its ALA accredited master's program and unique blended online format through a second cohort and extending its scholarship deadline to Jan. 30 in the Pacific region. The LEAP-II or Library Education for the American Pacific program is recruiting students interested in earning the master's degree with a focus on digital information management, creation, curation, and preservation.

According to associate professor Yvonne J. Chandler, director for the LEAP II Grant, "with this degree you can work with digital information in libraries, government agencies, companies, public schools, colleges and universities, museums or archives. You can earn your master's in Information Science degree by completing the UNT master's program through our unique blended online format of attendance at introductory classes to be held in Laie, Hawaii called the Web Institute and complete the rest of your degree online."

The scholarship application and all supporting documents must be postmarked by Jan. 30. The successful recipient will receive $20,000 scholarship funding covering all tuition; a new laptop computer with software, a protection agreement, and a stipend to cover connectivity costs; professional association memberships; and all travel expenses including flight, meals, and housing to attend the Web Institute in Hawaii on the campus of Brigham Young University.

According to Joeten Kiyu Public Library technical services librarian Rosalyn Ajoste, who took part in the first cohort after being awarded the $20,000 LEAP Scholarship by PREL Hawaii, many of her classmates were from all insular areas of the U.S.-affiliated Pacific.

She said the scholarship is an excellent opportunity for a much needed profession within the Pacific. She noted that she took part in the program from August 2011 to July 2013, a blended course that was mostly online.

Ajoste graduated in July 2013 as one of 23 LEAP scholar librarians for the Pacific Rim.

"Librarianship found me. The LEAP Scholarship opened up new doors of opportunity including new career paths. A library and information science degree provides advanced research skills in information retrieval and access, information organization and systems, grant writing, library management, advocacy, and marketing, cataloging, collection development, education, and literacy promotion. I had always wanted to go back to school for a graduate degree but once I began teaching full-time, I couldn't afford it, and I was taking care of my elderly parents," she said.

Winning the highly competitive LEAP scholarship changed her life and utilized her background and passion for history.

"[It] was a dream come true because it enabled me to complete my studies without leaving home. As a field of study, library and information science is mostly digital, with huge emphasis on services for 21st century technology users. I was very fortunate to land a job with the Joeten Kiyu Public Library in January 2014 as the Technical Services Librarian. I now have two years hands-on experience. The work is intellectually stimulating; there is so much to read and so little time. The CNMI needs more librarians. Librarians connect people with the information they seek. They are the gatekeepers of information and navigators on the information superhighway. They work to ensure that freedom of information is protected," she said.

The LEAP II Cohort will train a second cohort of librarians this year but will offer a special archival focus as well.

Ajoste said there is much work to be done in the realm of archiving, digitization, and preservation with respect to local history and culture.

"Librarianship was a marriage of my history degree and 10 years teaching experience. At JKPL, I get to advocate for literacy and promote a number of social programs. Historically, libraries were the 'poor man's' university, a place where people could come to earn an informal education. The great equalizers of society, libraries served as democratic institutions, free-thinking spaces that promoted intellectual discourse and exchange, without regard for socio-economic class, race, or belief. I sincerely hope that JKPL becomes a birthplace of ideas that leads into entrepreneurship or advances in academia, particularly science, technology, engineering, and math," she said.

With over 26 school campuses in the CNMI, there is definitely room for more certified librarians.

Presently, most public libraries in the mainland have MLIS certified librarians on staff. Tinian and Rota public libraries have no librarians. Other specialized librarians include law librarians, health librarians, corporate librarians, college professors, academic librarians who work in colleges/universities, and archivists, which the CNMI lacks.

If you'd like to avail to this opportunity, do so by or before Jan 30. For further information about the LEAP-II Cohort Program and Scholarship or the master's degree program go to the UNT/DLIS website at http://lis.unt.edu.

CCA general membership meeting

The Commonwealth Cancer Association is inviting the community, cancer survivors, friends, and supporters to its annual general membership meeting on Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016, at 5:30pm at the CCA conference room in Gualo Rai.

The agenda will include the president's 2015 annual report as well as the treasurer's financial report. There will also be an election of three board members. Nominations for board members will be accepted in advance via email and/or on the floor.

To submit a board nomination or for more information, contact CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(CCA)***

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Mount Carmel School hosts visiting Korean students

During this past Christmas break and throughout the month of January, Mount Carmel School welcomed 35 students from Wolgwang Christian School in Korea as part of a four-week language immersion and cultural exchange program. For several years now, the school has been offering similar educational programs that accommodate the traditional Korean winter break from late December to late February. This recent visit is the second time that students from Wolgang Christian School visited the school.

During the Christmas break, the students worked with two school teachers, Connie Kiawol and John Hernandez, on English tutoring and group-building activities. When classes resumed this week, students shifted to an immersion program in the 2nd through 5th grades. As part of that program, students have participated alongside their Mount Carmel School peers in all classroom instruction and learning, as well as engaging in interactions that promote mutual cultural understanding.

As a treat for the Mount Carmel School student body, the 35 Korean students put on a special performance that showcased dances, songs, and even demonstrations of taekwondo, a Korean martial art. MCS students were impressed by the theatrics and showmanship of their Korean counterparts who dazzled them with traditional Korean dancing and high-flying taekwondo kicks, some that even broke wood panels.

Students from Wolgwang Christian School pose for a group photo before their performance.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The experience has been good for Mount Carmel School students as well. As 5th grader Kyla Cabrera put it, "It's been good. We're doing role-playing group work, and they've cooperated very well." She also pointed out that it's been more than just about academics. "We've had fun; they interact with us during break and we've grown really close."

From an educational standpoint, Hernandez appreciates the presence of the visiting students. "They're very energetic, and they like to do activities. …Their English really improved, and for their age, some of them were very advanced." ***(MCS)***

ATV applications put on hold

Government officials have put all pending and future applications for all-terrain vehicles and utility-terrain vehicle—often used for tourist businesses—"on hold," citing an unregulated and growing industry that may be incompatible with the island's roads.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has backed the Zoning Board's decision. The board made the recommendation to not act on these applications in a hearing last Dec. 29.

Therese Ogumoro**,** Zoning Office Administrator, had said in a letter to the Zoning Board that it has become "apparent that the carrying capacity of the road system for the number of off-road vehicles has not been evaluated and the compatibility of the number of off-road vehicles with sound planning for responsible development and tourism in the CNMI is in question."

"Through staff research and consultation with our legal counsel," Ogumoro said in her letter, "this office has come to the conclusion that the off-road vehicle business is essentially unregulated. Permits are not required from other regulatory agencies."

Torres, in statement, said he supports the decision. "… What is clear is that we need to adopt the appropriate policies and resolve the important questions concerning our rapid economic development as it relates to the proper use of land, our people, and our limited resources."

Torres has instructed members of his staff and administration to attend upcoming meetings on this issue and to prepare an appropriate legislative proposal or regulatory position.

"We need to take into account the effects development will have on all sectors of our environment and people," Torres said. "As we experience unprecedented growth and development, we need to balance our role as stewards of our islands with the requirement of promoting sustainable and healthy economic development that does justice to all who live here and to our future generations."

Saipan Tribune learned that the Zoning office has requested the presence of the Office of the Governor in a preliminary meeting on the issue next week, to discuss measures to protect properties and the public, mitigate vehicle operations on land and "how we can improve our government's coordination of these outdoor amusement activities while realizing their increasing popularity with our tourism industry."

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$45 1lb Lobster Only
COMBO
1.5lb. Live Lobster and Baby Back Ribs or St. Louis Spareribs withj 2 cup Toast Salad $80
Live Lobster and Ribs Combo 1lb. Live Lobster and Baby Back Ribs or St. Louis Spareribs with 1 Cup Toast Salad $70

STEAK
New York 12oz. $32
Steak Combo
Mahi or Salmon 6oz Tender Loin with Soup $32
Rib Eye 14oz. with Corn Soup $35
Two Side Dishes of Choice: Baked Potato Loaded/Broccoli/Corn/Rice
Choice of sauce: Sunshine/Bernaise/Demiglaze

RIBS
The Original Baby Back Ribs
Full Slab 10-12 bones $30
Baby Back Ribs 9-10 bones $28
Half Baby Back Ribs 6-7 bones $16
Full Slab Spare Ribs 10-12 bones $27
Half Slab Spare Ribs 5-6 bones $15
Two side dishes of choice: Baked Potato Loaded/Broccoli/Corn/Rice
Choice of Sauce: Regular BBQ Sauce/Hickory Brown Sauce/ Smoky Sauce

BURGER
Cheese Burger $10
8oz. Patty with cut Cello Lettuce, Tomato, Pickles with Mushroom Sauce
Triple Cheese Burger $12
Monterey Jack Cheddar and Provolone
Sides: One Side Dish of Choice: French Fries, Corn/Broccoli/Rice

COMBO MEAL

Beef Stroganof $12

Chamorro Sausage with Mushroom $10

Stir-Fried Tofu $8

Hot & Spicy Noodle Soup $10

Combo Set $12 Pizza ($11)

Steak/Flank $10

Cheese Burger $10

Chicken Tandoorie $10

Cordon Bleu $16

South Western Chicken $12

Beef Bulgogi $12

Fried Porkchop $10

Combo Seafood $12

Beef Salpecao $10

Calzoni $11

Hawaiian Pizza

Vegetarian Pizza 12"

Four Kind of Cheese Pizza

APPETIZERS

Chicken Wings $8
With Green Bedding Vegetable
Choice of Sauce: Shriracha or Buffalo

Potato Skin $6
Cheese, Bacon and Green Onion

Gambas Al Ajillo $9
7pcs Shrimp with Chili Pepper

Breaded Calamari $9

Sunshine Nachos $9
Tomato, Onion, Cheese, Ground Beef, Sour Cream, Guacamole

Bruschetta $5
French Bread, Tomatoes, Basil Leaves

French Bread with Peas Pesto $5

SALADS

Toast Salad $8
With Tomato, Cucumber and Black Olive.
Dressing: Thousand Islands, Honey Mustard, French, Vinaigrette, Ranch

Caesar Salad $8
With Lettuce, Bacon Bits, Cheese

Grilled Shrimp $14
Grilled Chicken $12
Dressing: Caesar Dressing

SOUP

Clam Chowder $3
Bake Potato Soup $3

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Obama looks back; America looks ahead

President Barack Obama's eighth and final State of the Union address sounded a note of optimism and set the stage for what he promised would be a national campaign to bring Americans together, and which he hopes will define his place in the history books.

We agree with his call for Congress to work more closely with him to solve some of the nation's most pressing problems. But lately that has not been the tone set by his administration, especially with his numerous executive orders that impose policies by circumventing Congress and which don't mesh with his reminder of "our commitment to the rule of law."

The president promised a short speech Tuesday night, but it still stretched to about an hour. And, although it didn't include a laundry list of proposals, given that Congress is unlikely to enact many of them, it did include a long list of what he sees as his accomplishments. He touted the long economic recovery and the creation of 14 million jobs and cutting unemployment in half since the Great Recession he inherited.

The problem is that much of the credit has to go to the Federal Reserve Board's expansion of the money supply at the beginning of the recession, and its seven-year zero-interest-rate policy, which only last month it began to end. The problem with ZIRP is that it discourages savings by persons with passbook savings accounts, while encouraging the expansion of wealth by investors—including wealthy people whom Obama attacked for having too much money.

If the end of ZIRP produces an economic slowdown later this year, the president's optimism tonight will have proved premature.

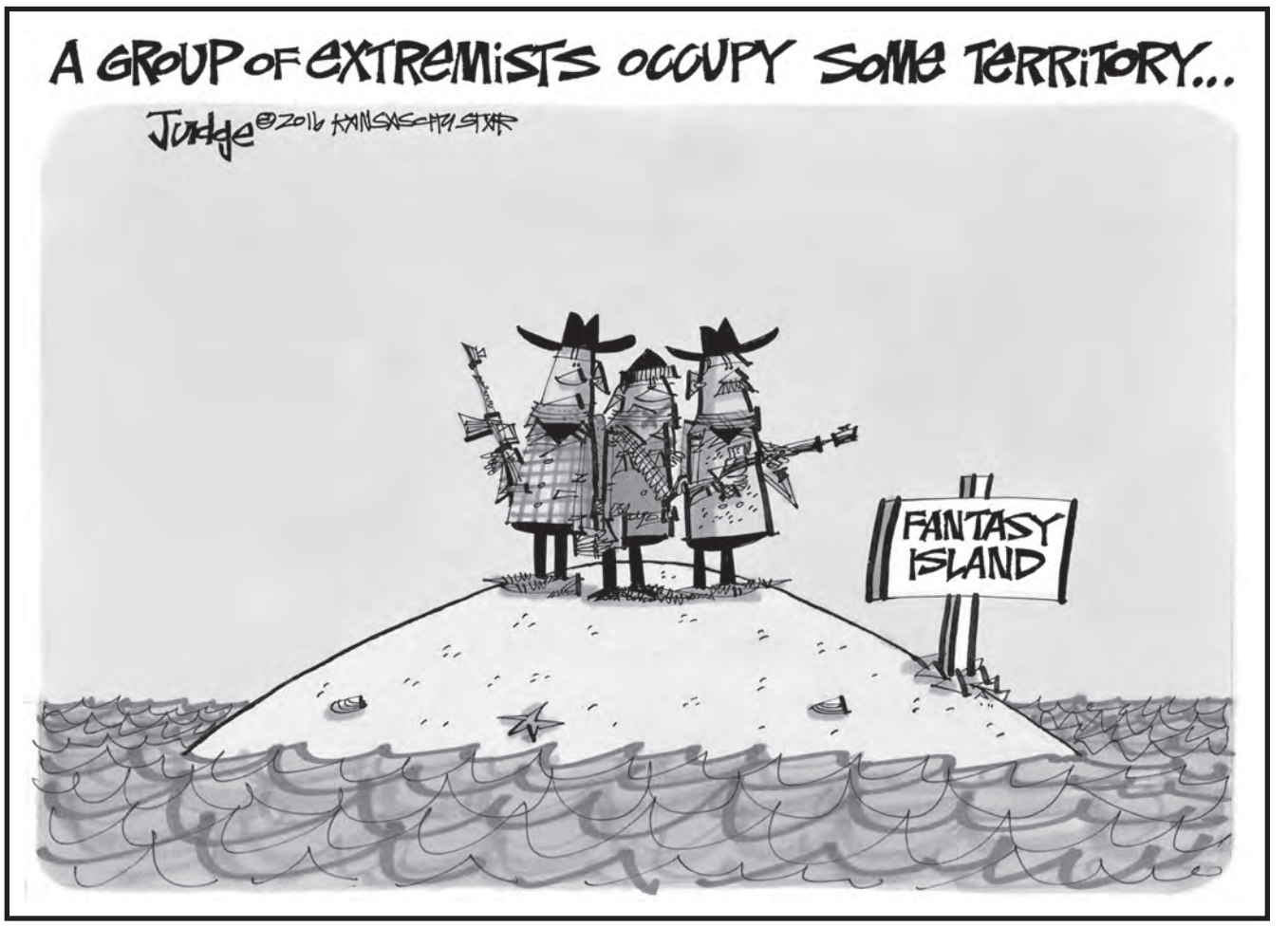
He also, not surprisingly, touted the success of the Affordable Care Act—Obamacare—in particular praising it for enrolling 18 million uninsured people. Yet much of the rest of the country, especially the middle class, has suffered shocking insurance premium increases. According to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, nationally premiums on average will jump 12.56 percent. And from 2010-14, according to the Washington Times, average premiums "skyrocketed, for some groups by as much as 78 percent."

Contrast that to the president's 2008 campaign promise, "We'll lower premiums by up to $2,500 for a typical family per year. … We'll do it by the end of my first term as president of the United States." The fact is that the ramifications of Obamacare, good and bad, will be with us for a long time.

The president insisted, correctly, "A thriving private sector is the lifeblood of our economy. … There is red tape that needs to be cut." Yet according to a tally last May by the Heritage Foundation, just the year 2014 saw "the addition of 27 new major rules" for a total of 184 major new rules, with the cost to business "estimated by regulators to be nearly $80 billion." The Dodd-Frank financial regulations alone "encompassed 850 pages of legislative text, and has spawned 19,000 pages of regulations"—so far.

There actually were some positive elements in the speech. Obama celebrated the greatness of American invention and exploration, from Thomas Edison and George Washington Carver to astronaut Sally Ride. He touted his restoration of

See OBAMA on Page 13



The devil made me do it

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune*.*

It was comedian Flip Wilson on his '70s show that popularized the phrase in our title. A woman possessed in Dallas, Texas, told family members that she thinks the "devil" is in her after she drowned her five children in a bathtub. A variation of the same theme is the current "God Made Me Do It" routine.

Marc Hartzman, who likes the bizarre and writes with humor, published *God Made Me Do It: True Stories of the Worst Advice the Lord Has Ever Given His Followers,* where he narrates how a woman was instructed to direct traffic—topless. There was one who performed surgery on himself, of folks told to be cannibals, rid of their car insurance, let God fill their gas tanks, and have the divine root for the Minnesota Vikings.

The news is replete of incidents where the divine is used as the source of instructions. According to court testimony, an 18-year-old woman from Georgia was accused of stabbing her cousin to death, using "God made me do it" as a defense. In this case, the step-cousins were good friends but one inhaled a substance that got them into a quarrel, and the smoker ender up chasing the cousin in the street with a butcher knife, hacking her four times.

A 21-year-old mother from Connecticut killed her 8-month-old son in the belief that her son will rise from the dead if her faith was strong enough. It appears that it wasn't.

Faith as a motivating factor for questionable acts was dramatically portrayed in the movie *Elmer Gantry.* Also, an Iranian construction worker was indicted for the scarf-strangling death of 19 prostitutes for God's sake, to protect religion and the corruption of people. His neighbors reportedly gathered outside his home chanting, "Killer, we support you."

A paranoid schizophrenic mother of 40 killed her 16-year-old daughter in their home; she suspected the daughter to be possessed by Satan and God wanted her to cleanse her home of satanic influences. She told police that her daughter's last words were: "Mama, don't shoot me, I love you," for which Mama replied, "I know, baby, but I have to do the Lord's will."

A naked man driving a car pelted a woman walking her dog and struck her with the car, telling police that "demons wanted to destroy the woman" and he was driving naked "so he could enter the kingdom of God." Happily, the woman survived.

A Bible-toting man committed a five-hour crime spree when he beat his brother and raped his girlfriend, broke into a house, tried to run over a convenience store clerk twice after robbing her, and at a second store, reportedly shot the husband-and-wife owners. He was sentenced to two life terms.

A 31-yeal-old man, in the midst of struggling to change religious affiliation, fatally stabbed his son, wife, and mother-in-law in an assault in the middle of the night.

A mob summoned by a church bell beat a man to death next to a Mexican police station because the victim was trying to steal the patron saint idol of the neighborhood.

Of course, we are all familiar with folks stealing in the name of God. "Affinity fraud" in building trust through religious loyalty has been reported in 27 states, of 90K investors scammed by religious con artists to the tune of $1.8 billion. In five year, 13K investors lost $450 million on religion-based fraud.

A founder of a ministry was sentence to 27 years in prison for a Ponzi scheme; he took $580 million on the promise to 20K investors that their money would double through "divinely-inspired investments." A high profile case involved a foundation that raised $590 million through 120 shell corporations.

A female ward from China prays daily to God to determine the course of her day, a bug she caught on Saipan after coming from Hainan. I tried to get her to create a timeline, reflect on the events, people, places, and significance of her first 24 years of life, and do the same on her projection of the next 24. Grounded on the real, she had a context on how to run her life daily, the exercise done at least once a year, adding a year on both end each time. She prefers perpetual dependency on the divine.

And why not? Knowing the infinite mystery of The Way Life Is (YHWH) is a religious preoccupation we learned from the Jews. The Muslims› most solemn word is *Anshallah,* "God willing." Pinas' *que sera sera*, translated as *bahala na,* comes from Indo *Bathala na,* "God willing." Variations guide branches of the Christian church. "God will provide" was my mother's pat response after she exhausted the application of her wit and skill. In deeply religious Saipan, "it is in God's hands" is a most repeated phrase.

G-O-D as an external Santa Klaus in the sky is passé, no longer taken seriously among theologians of note, though the metaphor remains popular. God allegedly rooted for the Crimson Tide at the College Football Championship Ball.

One of the 9th graders at a private school asked if I was an atheist. Another student answered: "No, he simply decided to be responsible for 86 years of his life." *Amen.*

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The S.T.O.A.

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column usually runs every Friday. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

My favorite comedy routine is called "The Slow Talkers of America." It was done by radio broadcasters Bob Elliott and Ray Goulding, who were known simply as "Bob and Ray." Their on-air presence spanned the 1940s through the 1980s, but I don't know when "The Slow Talkers of America" was recorded.

In the routine, which is only about four minutes long, a news host is interviewing the president of the Slow Talkers of America. The slow talking drives the host into complete exasperation.

I grew up in areas where people didn't usually talk fast. They didn't speak comically slow, like the S.T.O.A. guy, but, on the other hand, they didn't use city-slicker turbo talk, either.

My grandfather was a Southern doctor, and the slow, genteel cadence of his speech helped solidify his status as the most dignified person I've known. Behind that unassuming and kindly demeanor was a formidable man. He received a Bronze Star as an army major in WWII, and, before that, had been an electrical engineer venturing through Asia. He started medical school in Calcutta before the war. His résumé reads like something out of a Kipling story.

Maybe that's one reason I like a comfortable speaking pace that's easy on the ears. But I might be an outlier on that note. When I was in college the established opinion was that people who spoke fast were perceived as more knowledgeable.

Later on, in corporate life, executives preparing presentations often tried to use a "knowledgeable," quick-paced delivery. This was, no doubt, a legacy of the old college wisdom.

After that PowerPoint came along. Oh, joy. I don't even know if there is any such thing as an exclusively spoken presentation anymore, at least in the corporate realm.

The weirdest speaking cadence that I've employed is when speaking through an interpreter at a fancy business powwow. It was a last-minute trip and I didn't have time to prepare. I'm sure there are methods for these situations, but I didn't know any. The best I could do was organize my words into bite-sized phrases that didn't have to be laced together. It was clunky. It's probably not a net loss for me, though, since I'm not a slick speaker to begin with.

Looking back at the fast side of things, whenever I try to converse in Mandarin Chinese, I'm completely overwhelmed at the pace of the words coming at me. I don't know if the language is actually spoken faster than English is, or if my ineptitude just makes it seem that way. It's possible that both explanations are true. Anyway, yeah, for me, it's hopeless. I admit that.

There's no shame in being shamed by Mandarin, it's a hard language. But being out-paced in your native tongue is a different proposition entirely.

I hadn't considered that unsavory scenario until I wound up in New York. That place moves a lot faster than I do. I was traveling and I ventured into a deli at high noon on a weekday. It was, naturally, crowded. This wasn't a national chain where I might know my way around the menu; it was, instead, an independent joint, obviously packed with regulars, and there seemed to be a lot of colloquial lingo involved in ordering a sandwich.

I was probably the 10th person in line when I arrived, but the line moved so fast that a matter of seconds later I was No. 2. Behind me, three burly road-workers queued up, and there were more people piling in behind them.

Then it was my turn at the counter. Already! Yikes.

I said, "I'm an outsider. I talk too slow for you guys. So please give me a roast beef sandwich to go, any way you want to make it," and I handed over a $20 bill.

And here we see the marvel of efficiency that is New York: Without batting an eye the guy rang up my order and handed me my change.

I hastily cleared away from the counter. Two minutes later I was on my way, lunch in hand. I was impressed.

I've since been back to New York a couple of times, and Newark (N.J.), too, and I've sort of warmed to the fast pace of those places. True, I'm an S.T.O.A. member invading F.T.O.A. territory, but I wave a flag of surrender and they give me some sort of diplomatic immunity or something.

Saipan's pace is more my style. But it's a big world out there, so, until I win the lotto, I have to take it as it comes. Hey, fast talk, slow talk, foreign talk, deli talk, look on the bright side: at least it's not PowerPoint.

Macau's casino heads south

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

One of Macau's embattled gambling bosses was having tea when someone walked in and punched him in the face, according to a WSJ news article. "That is the kind of year Macau has had" and brought a dismal year for the gambling enclave and its "powerful VIP gambling room operators."

"Full-year gambling revenue is expected to have fallen by about a third compared with last year to $30 billion, roiled by China's crackdown on corruption and capital flight. Revenue in November was $2.06 billion, the lowest monthly figure since 2010.

"The performance stands in stark contrast to that of the Las Vegas Strip, the world's second-largest casino market, where the gambling revenue haul is expected to remain fairly steady, hovering at over $6 billion for the year. Though China's policies have also cut into the revenue Las Vegas casinos used to make from prized Chinese VIP players, unlike Macau, the U.S. casino capital has other gamblers to pick up the slack.

"Investors who had been wildly bullish on Macau casinos have now grown frustrated. Shares of the five major Hong Kong-listed casino operators have fallen an average of 48 percent this year as of Tuesday's closing price."

But crashing revenue forced Mr. Wing-hung Kwok's VIP rooms to shut, leaving him with financial disputes and considerable personal gambling debts—a common fate in Macau this year—one of the people said. Junket operators like Mr. Kwok have borne the brunt of the downturn with VIP gambling revenue declining 44 percent this year through November compared with the overall industry's 35 percent fall and a 22 percent drop at mass-market gambling tables, according to data from Daiwa Capital Markets.

According to the police report, the reason for the attack on 57-year-old Mr. Kwok is unknown and the assailant, who fled the scene, hasn't been arrested. A police organized-crime team is handling the investigation, the report said.

"Ownership of VIP gambling operations in Macau is often opaque. A spokeswoman for the Peninsula, which was crowded with tourists waiting for its famous afternoon tea at the time of the attack, confirmed that someone had been assaulted at the hotel.

"The changing policies are coming at exactly the wrong time for Macau's casino operators, who are in the middle of a $20 billion expansion push.

"CLSA analyst Aaron Fischer expects return on invested capital to drop from 34 percent on existing Macau casino properties to about 21 percent for new resorts in the territory given the 'evaporation' of $10 billion worth of high-end players during the crackdown."

It's bad tidings we need to understand in our nose-end sight of an industry that is crashing all over nearby.

Unsolicited misery

With 51 percent of employees under the federal definition of "poverty income level," you add others at the brink and the figure would balloon to more people suffering from income inadequacies quietly absorbing the vicious hardship. The federal poor income level is $24-26K per year for a family of two to four.

Center stage is in the 15 years of economic stagnancy—where nothing works navigated by toxic Republican charge—that found its way into fossilized family income. It remains the same while the cost of basic goods have skyrocketed.

I know it would be devastating to impose the federal minimum wage here. Imagine the more expensive "living wage" that "provides an annual income to afford adequate shelter, food and the other necessities of life." It's a legitimate view, though it also has its devastating effects on business that includes triggering unemployment.

The stagnant economy is bordering on becoming a permanent fixture here, if not already. This has got to change and it begins with a realistic plan how to grow the local economy. That policies are made in favor of certain investors while ignoring others hasn't been of much help to encourage additional investments here. Affluenza has taken its seat making for a vicious cycle that shifted representation from "we the people" to the "we few."

Amidst the sinking quality of life, families still have to deal with supporting college kids, monthly payment for the first family home and other costly obligations. How do they deal with fossilized income while enduring the slow but steady increase in the cost of other basic needs like food? Interesting how senators have recently given themselves $2,500 per month to cover needs while openly ignoring the dire needs of people they represent. Perhaps they've turned us into robots!

Recalled how joblessness devastated a friend who used to support his daughter in college. The kid had to put off her education for nearly two years working as a dishwasher to pay for her apartment and life's necessities. As bad as economic depression has dealt families here, this is where they are today and still sinking steadily too. We're still waiting for affluenza plans to improve the lot of families they've opted to ignore.

Evacuation: Six years ago more than 3,000 of our people moved to Guam and elsewhere in search of opportunities for their families. We in the media call it "relocation." I beg to disagree. It's more an issue of "evacuation" in search of greener pasture. It was a "now or never" issue.

While Puerto Rico suffers from a decade of economic recession, ours is far worse. We had to learn how to endure economic depression for nearly 15 long years. It means the income of employees in both sectors have remained the same all these years.

This condition, as it is happening in Puerto Rico, results in what's known as capital flight—relocation, and in our case, evacuation of valuable human resources. This was basically triggered by the lack of opportunities to decently support the needs of families from education, health and others. Those who evacuated knew the impending hardship would be devastating. Incompetent politicians have built a vicious tangled web as their treasured trophy!

OBAMA

From Page 12

relations with Cuba and called on Congress to lift a trade embargo now more than 50 years old.

On foreign policy, he gilded over his dubious nuclear deal with Iran on a day when 10 American sailors were taken into custody by the Iranian navy. He correctly called for maintaining a strong military and destroying those, such as the Islamic State, that attack Americans. And rightly disdained excessive intervention in foreign countries. "Leadership remains the wise use of American power," he said. Alas, his intervention in toppling the Muammar Gaddafi regime in Libya turned that country into a haven for terrorists.

He concluded by saying one of the "few regrets of my presidency" was the "rancor" between himself and Congress. But the president himself is as much to blame for a country in ways more divided than it was for his first State of the Union address in 2009, when he said, "What is required now is for this country to pull together, confront boldly the challenges we face, and take responsibility for our future once more."

In reality, this may have been his last chance to set the overall agenda as Americans turn to the race to replace him in the White House. The president was jaunty and celebratory in his speech, but a divided nation now is looking beyond his presidency.

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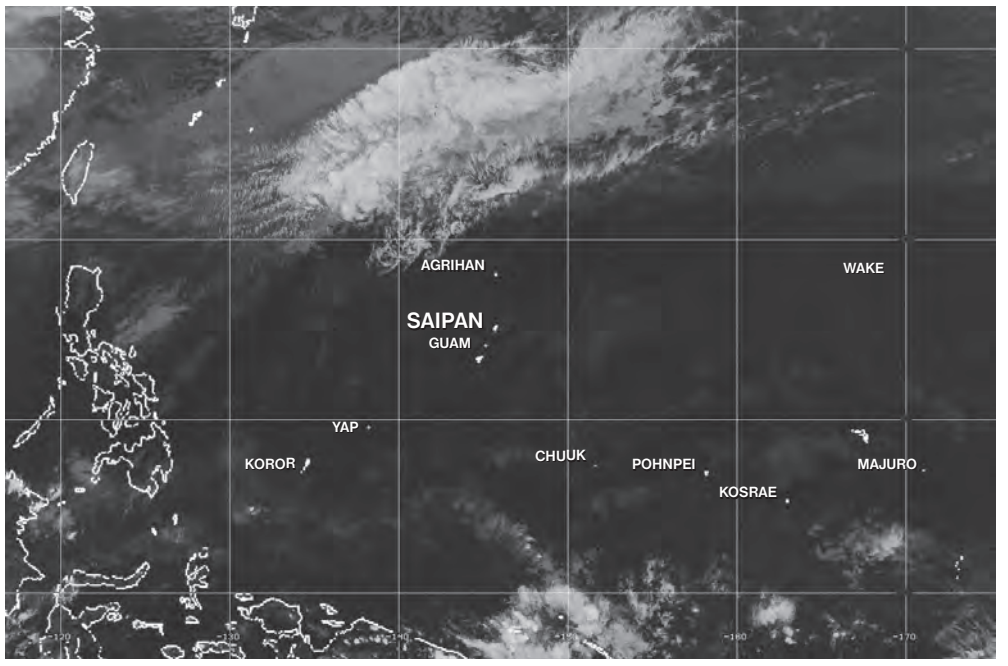
The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with solated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼74°	▲85° ▼74°	▲85° ▼74°	▲85° ▼74°	▲85° ▼74°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:11 PM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends west-southwestward from northeast of Wake Island at 25N176E to 22N160E then continues west-southwestward as a stationary front to beyond 130E at 18N. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located northwest of the Marianas between 25N and 18N from 130E to 142E. Cloudiness and patchy showers are present along and up to 180 miles north of this boundary east of 20N142E. A near-equatorial trough stretches east-northeastward from south of Koror at EQ135E to beyond the date line at 2N. Scattered showers are found south of Koror and Yap within 120 miles of a line from 6N130E to 4N137E to 5N145E to EQ150E farther east. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring south of the Marshall Islands between 4N and 1N from 166E to 173E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Showers	▲84	▼78
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼78
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼61
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲38	▼19
Hong Kong	Rain	▲64	▼61
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼70
London	Mostly Sunny	▲42	▼32
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼48
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼72
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼51
Miami	Showers	▲72	▼68
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲41	▼35
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲49	▼35
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲42	▼31
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲51	▼32
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲56	▼40
Salem	Rain	▲44	▼42
San Francisco	Rain	▲55	▼50
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲41	▼23
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲50	▼35
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲49	▼34

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:15 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
11:57 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
6:23 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
11:30 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:06 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:06 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:07 PM
Monday	6:47 AM	6:07 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:39 AM	11:04 PM
Saturday	11:26 AM	
Sunday	12:13 PM	12:01 AM
Monday	1:01 PM	12:59 AM
Tuesday	1:52 PM	1:56 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 4, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5072/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2924/159	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A failed opportunity

The electorate of the CNMI must know that the CNMI Constitution prohibits the automatic promotion of any person to an approved government position or office, and this would include the position of governor and lieutenant governor. All promotions to government positions must comply with standards of the law and Constitution. In the case of the governor or lieutenant governor, Section 7 of Article lll of the CNMI Constitution is the rule that determines how a person would replace the person in the governor's office or the lieutenant governor's office, or both.

Three sentences formed the paragraph of Section 7 of Article lll of the CNMI Constitution.

Sentence 2 is problematic. In the rarest of rare, It is almost impossible than less probable that vacancies for both the governor and lieutenant governor offices occurring at the same time. I could think of a situation where the CNMI Election Commission is confronted with a certification decision of a close election where only a handful of questionable ballots would determine the outcome of the election, and faced with time running out as the inaugural date for offices is only a few hours away. Or, in the unlikely chance the elected governor and elected lieutenant governor are both killed at one time before taking the oath of offices or during the course of term of office. Or the elected governor and lieutenant governor both reject being sworn in to their respective elected offices, or decide to resign their offices at the same time. This is oddly unimaginable by all means, but possible for some unknown and undesirable reasons. It could be in some unthinkable possibility a force so powerful that fatally threatened their existence just prior to their taking the oath of office, or during their term of office. The world is so unpredictable in future global events and the CNMI has entered a huge development ventures in which no one in the CNMI is versed on what all these unknown but possible events taking a toll in our societal order and governmental tranquility. Death before taking the oath of office is not an isolated matter in U.S. history. Perhaps the framers of the CNMI Constitution had this vision in mind as they deliberated the writing of the second sentence of Section 7 of Article lll of the CNMI Constitution. Nonetheless, this is rare, but even rarer than a hen's teeth as Mr. John Pangelinan said just a few days ago.

Our problem is that the second sentence of Section 7 and Section 8 of Article lll of the CNMI Constitution's treatment of assumption of office by "acting capacity" for the governor and the lieutenant governor offices' line of succession is unconstitutional. Vacancies of the governor and lieutenant governor offices do not confer automatic "acting capacity" by any stretch of the imagination concerning a person holding an elected office in the Legislature. It is constitutionally prohibited for a person to hold two elected offices—one as duly elected representative of a precinct and then an office in the Executive Branch that is only conferred by election. Hence, meddling in the affairs of the Executive Branch by a sitting elected representative in the Legislature—or a judge of the Judiciary taking office in the Executive Branch function—is unmistakably prohibited by the CNMI Constitution.

The only cure to this shortcoming and malady is by resignation of the person holding elected office in the line of succession, or through constitutional authority by the sitting governor electing to appoint a person outside the line of succession, or a person deemed qualified as notated by the CNMI Constitution. Hence, no person could assume a vacated elected office in the Executive Branch unless the "acting capacity" appointment is sanctioned and authorized by the sitting governor. Unless absent conflict of separation of powers between and within the three branches of government and meeting the test of avoiding dual posts in government services, any person assuming "acting capacity" could be the lieutenant governor or the governor for the CNMI people.

In the case where the CNMI government is without a duly elected governor and lieutenant governor, this is the crux of the confusion. Unless by resignation of the person in the normal line of succession as stated in the CNMI Constitution, the resignation is their only "one way" ticket to assume the "acting capacity" of the office of the lieutenant governor or the "acting capacity" of the office of governor. A resignation by the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House ends their status as an elected representative in the Legislature. Their time of offices ends when the electorates return normalcy in the hands of the next elected lieutenant governor and elected governor. To return to their former offices, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House must wait their chances in the next general election. When this event haunts the CNMI, it supposedly engages the CNMI Supreme Court to assert jurisdiction. Does it mean at the point that the Supreme Court would be free to appoint persons in an "acting capacity" for the vacated governor and lieutenant governor offices?

The alleged wrong committed by the OAG and AG, including our legislators' unexplained and suspicious silence to all these will become the one big thing that required their lawmaking but failed by default. This imperfect conundrum would dog CNMI history and its people, and scapegoating would not rest in the hands of the framers of the Constitution but in our present elected officials. It is so provided in our CNMI Constitution to correct itself in meeting all vastly constant inconsistencies and vulnerable trying time of governing. A failed opportunity that would prove how inadequate we are in preparing for the maturity of this government.

Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

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Property Map/As Built Map/ Total Land Area
If available for existing building showing exact location & building details
Owner Title Information
Owner Asking Price

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Saipan writers workshop on Jan 23

Are you an aspiring author? Do you have a book idea? Have you always wanted to write and publish "The Great Marianas novel" or memoir, a non-fiction "how to" manual, or book of poetry or photographs? Or do you need to establish yourself as an expert in your field with a book to your credit? Well you can, and it's easier than you think!

Walt Goodridge is author of over 20 books in each of these genres. His books have been used as texts for university courses, as guides by other coaches, and his ideas have been quoted in books by "Guerrilla Marketing" guru Jay Conrad Levinson, music industry pioneer Chuck D, and other business authors worldwide.

Goodridge has written several books about Saipan including *Jamaican on Saipan*, *Chicken Feathers & Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan*, *Saipan Living*, *Doing Business on Saipan, Saipan Now: a photo adventure*, and *From Bugle Boy to Battle Ship: a Battle of Saipan Veteran's Memoir.* He has also coached, edited, or "ghost-written" other books including *When the Walls Came Down* by Ken Greene (a 9/11 memoir), *Rucksack to Briefcase* by Chief Raymond (a military to civilian-side transition guide), *The Boy Who Dreamed to Be With His Parents on Saipan* and *GermStopper Boy* by local CHCC nurse Riza Ramos, and guided them from idea to Amazon sales!

During this lively, interactive three-hour workshop, Goodridge will share tips and step-by-step instructions on how to start a book project, overcoming "writer's block," the best and worst times to write, editing your book, and how to tell when it's ready.

The workshop will be held on Saturday, Jan. 23, 2016, from 9am to 12pm, at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library's Pacific Room. Admission is $10 in advance, and $12 at the door (RSVP if planning to pay at door). Twenty percent of door proceeds will be donated directly to the library on the day of the event!

Seating is limited. To prepay and read more, visit www.saipanliving.com/workshop, or if using Paypal, "Send" $10 to workshop@saipanliving.com. Students pay $5 in advance or at the door; bring ID. RSVP and email questions to walt@saipanliving.com. ***(PR)***

BECQ public water system workshop on Jan. 26

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Safe Drinking Water Program will be hosting a one-day workshop for all the CNMI's public water systems at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall on Jan. 26, 2016, from 8am to 4pm.

Topics will include the revised Total Coliform Rule that will be effective by April 1, 2016, Phase II-V monitoring, lead and copper rule, Consumer Confidence report, and more. All public and private water systems and bottled water companies are urged to attend. Water system owners, consultants, public health organizations, operators, and interested individuals or companies can participate.

Workshop is free of charge; however, there is seating for 140 participants only. All participants must register by Friday, Jan. 22, 2016, to reserve seating. Registration forms may be downloaded from http://deq.gov.mp or www.marianasoperators.org and may be either faxed to 664-8540, emailed to safedrinkingwater@becq.gov.mp, or submitted to the SDWP in person at the BECQ office located at the Gualo Rai Center building in Gualo Rai.

For additional information call BECQ at 664-8500. ***(BECQ)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport
Car Rental Concessions
CPA-RFP-011-16

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting proposals for the award of one (1) Rental Car Concessions at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.

Proposal packages can be obtained beginning January 15, 2016 at the CPA Administration Office, second floor of Arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at a fee of $50.00 per package.

Proposal must be addressed to the Executive Director, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and received by the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) on **February 8, 2016**, by or before **12:00 p.m.**, in order to be considered for the award.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject proposals in accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations.

/s/ MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

Tinian International Airport
Car Rental Concessions
CPA-RFP-012-16

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting proposals for the award of three (3) Rental Car Concessions at the Tinian International Airport.

Proposal packages can be obtained beginning January 15, 2016 at the CPA Administration Office, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at a fee of $50.00 per package.

Proposals must be addressed to the Executive Director, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and received by the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) on **February 8, 2016**, by or **before 12:00 p.m.**, in order to be considered for the award.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject proposals in accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations.

/s/ MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

PROCUREMENT, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF SIX (6) AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS
for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and Saipan Commuter Terminal
Project No. CPA-SA-001-16

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies to procure, deliver and install six (6) each air-conditioning units to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and the Saipan Commuter Terminal, including one year warranty and one year preventive maintenance.

A scope of work (SOW) detailing the capacity and location of each unit is available for pick up at the CPA Administration Office at no cost. Project approach and cost must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, will be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package.

The proposals shall include the following:

1. Letter of interest;
2. Project Approach;
3. Construction Team;
4. Related past project performance (include commendations or certifications, if available);
5. Available resources to accomplish the project;
6. Cost proposal (in itemized SOW format); and
7. Valid CNMI Business License.

Proposers shall also with their proposal a statement of qualifications which should include résumés and experience of personnel that will be directly in charge of the project and previous similar project experience.

A walk through inspection will be conducted on **January 22, 2016 at 9:00** a.m. in order to assess the area and determine equipment and materials needed for the installation. Attendance at this walkthrough is mandatory for all interested proposers. Prospective proposers will meet CPA staff at the Ports Police Central Office prior to the inspection to acquire security badges. A valid photo I.D. is required to obtain a security badge.

The contract period for procurement and installation will be based on the contractor's proposal. However, liquidated damages of $500.00 shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse by CPA.

All proposals are to be submitted one (1) original and four (4) copies in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than **4:30 p.m., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2016.**

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Questions and inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to the Saipan Airport Manager at cpa.edmendiola@pticom.com and cpa.engr@pticom.com.

All This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 40-50-225. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Total cost for construction	40%
2. Experience of the firm on similar or related projects	30%
3. Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff	20%
4. Project Approach	10%

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Upon award, contractor shall execute performance and payment bonds for 100% of the contract amount from a CPA approved surety prior to commencement of work.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 40.50.225. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Board Chairman /Contracting Officer

Date: January 5, 2016

WORLD RESORT
SAIPAN

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: January 8, 2016 **POSITION: Graphic Artist**
CLOSE DATE: January 22, 2016 **SALARY: $6.05 - $7.05 per hour**

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two years experience in computer/network or formal education/training in Design related subjects highly preferred. One (1) position is currently available.

OPEN DATE: January 8, 2016 **POSITION: Purchasing Clerk (Part-Time)**
CLOSE DATE: January 22, 2016 **SALARY: $6.05 - $7.05 per hour**

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in purchasing related field preferred. Computer literacy preferred. One (1) position is currently available.

OPEN DATE: January 8, 2016 **POSITION: Human Resources Clerk**
CLOSE DATE: January 22, 2016 **SALARY: $6.05 - $7.05 per hour**

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in human resources or administrative preferred. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide support, friendly attitude and a ready smile. Two (2) positions are currently available.

OPEN DATE: January 8, 2016 **POSITION: Bellhop**
CLOSE DATE: January 22, 2016 **SALARY: $6.05 - $7.05 per hour**

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. A valid Driver's License is required and must be 25 years old or older. Experience in a hotel environment preferred. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and a ready smile. One (1) position is currently available.

OPEN DATE: January 8, 2016 POSITION: Server
CLOSE DATE: January 22, 2016 SALARY: $6.05 - $7.05 per hour

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in food service preferred. Friendly personality, willingness to serve and a readily smiling individual highly preferred. Two (2) positions are currently available.

OPEN DATE: January 8, 2016 **POSITION: Lifeguard**
CLOSE DATE: January 22, 2016 **SALARY: $6.05 - $7.05 per hour**

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Obtaining a lifeguard certification will be required for continued employment for the lifeguard position. Must have a friendly and an outgoing personality. Three (3) positions are currently available.

OPEN DATE: January 8, 2016 **POSITION: Water Park Cashier**
CLOSE DATE: January 22, 2016 **SALARY: $6.05 - $7.05 per hour**

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two years experience in a cashier type occupation preferred. Must have a friendly and an outgoing personality. Two (2) positions are currently available.

For more information, please contact the Human Resources Team at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274/266/576. Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle/Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete application will not be accepted by the Security Office.

Business

More employers try to help workers pay student loans

NEW YORK (AP)—Employers are discovering that making it easier for workers to pay off their student loans helps to attract and keep a happy workforce.

More and more companies are helping workers refinance their debts at better rates, giving employees extra cash for loan payments, or even paying their workers' lenders directly. It's a major benefit for millennials—people 35 and under—who are struggling to pay thousands of dollars in student debts as they enter the workforce.

"It's actually helped me quite a lot," says Christina Lin, a graphic designer who sliced her $3,800 in student loan debt in half within six months with help from her employer, ChowNow.

This is not as simple as it sounds: Many college graduates end up owing multiple lenders, and the tax implications can be complicated. Employers also want to make sure the money goes to the right place. This has created a niche for a handful of startups helping employers deliver the benefit.

Just 3 percent of employers helped workers repay student loans last year, according to a survey of more than 460 human resource managers conducted by the Society for Human Resource Management.

But more are starting to offer it, including some big-name companies.

Beginning in July, New York-based accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers plans to give certain employees with student loan debt as much as $1,200 a year for up to six years. Kronos Inc., a software company in Chelmsford, Massachusetts, will pay employees up to $500 a year toward student loan debts for as long as they need it. And some U.S. employees of Paris-based Natixis Global Asset Management can get $5,000 to go toward their federal loans, plus more if they stay with the company for more than five years.

Microsoft Corp. gives its workers the option to refinance student loans at discounted interest rates thanks to the company's relationship with online lender SoFi. It doesn't cost Redmond, Washington-based Microsoft anything, but SoFi says some of its 200 clients pay the lender to deliver even lower rates for their workers.

The class of 2014 graduated with an average of $28,950 in student loan debt, up 2 percent from the year before, according to the Project on Student Loan Debt. Employers say workers tell them their debts make it impossible to save for retirement or buy a home.

"Millennials are being crushed by student debt," says Michael Fenlon, the global talent leader at PricewaterhouseCoopers, which enlisted a startup, Gradifi, to handle the new benefit.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Argentina seeks better terms for $10B of defaulted debt

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Argentine Finance Minister Alfonso de Prat-Gay says the country is in a position to negotiate better terms for $10 billion in defaulted debt. The government began talks Wednesday with so-called holdout creditors in New York in hopes of getting what it describes as "fairer" terms. Prat-Gay says Argentina's main objective is to reduce punitive interest rates on part of the debt. The holdouts are a group of funds refusing to accept the terms of Argentina's debt restructurings in 2005 and 2010. They sued the country and won the right to recover the debt in full.

Fed says economy expanded somewhat in 9 of 12 districts

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Reserve says the economy expanded across most of the United States in December and early January. The Fed says in its latest snapshot of the economy that most of its 12 regional bank reported steady growth. The Atlanta and San Francisco banks described growth as "moderate." The Philadelphia, Cleveland, Richmond, Chicago, St. Louis, Minneapolis and Dallas banks called the economy's expansion "modest." The Boston Fed said businesses were "upbeat." Only the New York and Kansas City Fed banks reported that economic activity was "essentially flat."

SUNSHINE CAFÉ 阳光咖啡

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NEW RESTAURANTS LOOKING FOR STAFF

Two new food and beverage outlets looking for friendly, dedicated and service-oriented staff to join our team. We are looking for:

- **Restaurant Manager**
- **Kitchen Sous Chef**
- **Pastry Sous Chef**

- Floor Supervisors
- Waiters / Waitresses
- Cashiers
- Kitchen Supervisors
- Cooks / Pastry Cooks
- Stewards
- Part time artist for one wall mural project in our hot pot outlet

Previous experience is preferred, as is command of foreign languages, e.g. Chinese.

Interested applicants please send your resume and short introduction to sunshinejobs@icloud.com

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950-1055
Tel.: (670) 236-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2016

Opening date: December 31, 2015 **Closing date: January 22, 2016**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancy:

Position:
(1) Mechanic-II (ARFF)
(5) Ports Police Trainee (Saipan)
(1) AOA Controller-I (Saipan)
(1) Secretary-II (Rota)
(1) Electrician (Saipan)
(1) Procurement Technician (Saipan)
(1) Vessel Traffic Controller-I (Port of Saipan)
(1) Accountant-I (Saipan)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10 year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office is no later than ***4:30 p.m., Friday, January 22, 2015.***

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing. For additional information, please contact the Ms. Addy C. Manahane, by email at acmanahane@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director

Nation

California Lottery: Winning Powerball ticket sold in LA area

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A winning ticket in Wednesday night's record $1.5 billion Powerball jackpot was sold in suburban Los Angeles, a spokesman for the California lottery said.

It could take several hours before officials know whether any winning tickets were sold elsewhere. The winning numbers were 4-8-19-27-34 and Powerball 10.

One winning ticket was sold at a 7-Eleven in Chino Hills, California, said Alex Traverso, a spokesman for that state's lottery. The identity of the winner is not yet known.

The store and its surrounding strip mall immediately became a wildly popular gathering spot in the usually quiet Los Angeles suburb. TV footage showed hundreds of people, from news crews to gawkers, crowded the store and spilled into its parking lot.

They cheered and mugged for TV cameras as if it were New Year's Eve or a sporting event. Many chanted, "Chino Hills! Chino Hills!" in celebration of their city. Some took selfies with the store clerk on duty.

The 7-Eleven will get a $1 million bonus for selling the winning ticket, Traverso said.

Officials with the Multi-State Lottery Association, which runs the Powerball game, said they expected more than 85 percent of the possible number combinations would have been bought for the drawing. The odds of winning were 1 in 292.2 million.

Winners have to pay 39.6 percent of the prize in federal income taxes, in addition to any state taxes.

Estimated jackpot amounts, which are released daily, have been steadily rising since Nov. 4, when the jackpot was reset at $40 million.

Powerball tickets are sold in 44 states, as well as the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

But residents in the six states that don't participate found ways to get their hands on tickets. Some of the biggest Powerball sales have come from cities bordering states that don't sell the tickets, according to the Multi-State Lottery Association. The association oversees the Powerball Lottery, but management rotates annually among member states.

Michigan National Guard, FEMA help Flint amid water crisis

FLINT, Mich. (AP)—Members of the Michigan National Guard began arriving in Flint on Wednesday for briefings on the drinking water crisis just as state health officials reported a spike in Legionnaires' disease cases in the county where the city is located.

Gov. Rick Snyder activated the National Guard late Tuesday, and Lt. Col. William Humes confirmed about a half-dozen representatives arrived Wednesday morning. They are part of a larger contingent of Guardsmen who will help distribute bottled water, filters and other supplies to residents.

Flint's tap water became contaminated with too much lead after the city switched its water supply in 2014 to save money while under state financial management. Local officials first declared a public health emergency in October in response to tests that showed children with elevated levels of lead.

"I'm glad the state is putting in resources and we welcome the Michigan National Guard with open arms," Flint Mayor Karen Weaver said in a statement. "However, we also need federal assistance as we continue to cope with this man-made water disaster."

Meanwhile, Michigan's Department of Health and Human Services said Wednesday that there's been an increase in Legionnaires' disease cases during periods over the past two years in Genesee County.

Legionnaires' disease is a type of pneumonia caused by bacteria that infect the lungs. Health officials say they can't conclude that the increase is related to Flint's water crisis.

There were 45 confirmed cases, including seven associated deaths, in Genesee County from June 2014 to March 2015. In 47 percent of the cases, the water source at the primary residence was from the Flint River. A comparative chart that officials provided shows only 21 cases were confirmed in all of 2012 and 2013.

No charges for man who killed son he mistook for intruder

CINCINNATI (AP)—No charges will be filed against a man who fatally shot his 14-year-old son after mistaking him for an intruder.

Hamilton County Prosecutor Joseph Deters said Wednesday that the man, 72, won't be charged in the Tuesday morning shooting in the basement of the Cincinnati-area home.

The man had watched his son, Georta Mack, walk to the school bus and the boy later called his father to say he was on the bus, Deters said in his statement.

The man later heard a noise in the basement and got his .45 caliber handgun before investigating, according to the prosecutor. The father told authorities that when he opened a closet door, Georta jumped out and yelled, "Boo!"

The startled man, whose name wasn't released, fired a shot that hit the boy in the neck.

"He scared me!" the distraught father said in his 911 call. "I thought he was in school. I heard noise, so I went downstairs looking and he jumped out at me. .... Oh, God. Get here quick!"

Police said the teen had headed to the bus stop but apparently decided he wasn't going to school and came back home through a back door.

Deters said all the forensic evidence matched the father's account of what happened and no charges were appropriate.

"There is only one word for this—tragedy," Deters said. "It is impossible to imagine how horrible this father must feel for mistaking his son for an intruder."

TO: ANA FRANCES I. GATBONTON AND IVANN I. GATBONTON:

You are in default in your Promissory Note dated September 20, 2005, secured by a Real Estate Mortgage of the same date, executed and delivered by you to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) Description of the real property covered by Mortgage:

Lot no. 011 G 262, situated in Kagman III, Phase II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 799 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division and Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 011 G 06 dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 93-4414, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

(b) Date and amount of Promissory Note and Mortgage: September 20, 2015; $50,000.00
(c) Amount due for principal: $3,127.72 as of December 1, 2015
(d) Amount due for interest: $10,062.60 as of December 1, 2015
(e) Daily accruing interest: $7.67
(f) Late Charger $904.55 as of December 1, 2015

If the principal, interest, and late charges $14,094.87, plus accruing interest, together with reasonable attorney's fees in the amount of $500.00, are not paid within thirty (30) days from the date of service of this notice upon you, you will be in default, and Court proceedings will be commenced against you to foreclose upon the said Mortgage because of the default.

Unless you, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this letter dispute the validity claim, or any portion thereof, we will assume that it is valid. If you notify us in writing within this thirty (30) day period that the claim, or any portion thereof, is disputed, we will obtain information on the debt and mail you a copy thereof. Upon your written request within this thirty (30)-day period, we will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the creditor indicated above.

This letter is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

PARA: ANA FRANCES I. GATBONTON yan IVANN I. GATBONTON

Ti un komple i kontratahan debimu (Promissory Note) ni un fitma gi Septembre 20, 2005, ni afabobot i Real Estate Mortgage ma aseguro i tano yan guma ni un empena gi mismo dia, un fitma yan un entrega i empena (Mortgage) guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) I deskripsion tano ni ma empenen (mortgaged):

Sito numiro 011 G 946, ni gaigi gi Kagman III, Saipan, Note Marianas, ni ha konsiste un aria 799 kuadrao Metro, mas pat menus, ni anok gi Division Tano yan Mididan Tano afisiat Cadastral Plat numiro 011 G 06 Gi Disiembre 1, 1993, guihi I diskripsion ni ma incorporate guini ginen i informasion

(b) I kantida yan I fechan este na debi yan empepena: September 20, 2005; $50,000.00
(c) Kantida undebi para principat: $3,127.72 asta ki Disiembre 1, 2015
(d) Kantida undebi para interes: $10,062.60 asta ki Disiembre 1, 2015
(e) Interes kada dia: $7.67
(f) Appas pot atrasao (late charges): $904.55 asta ki Disiembre 1, 2015

Yangin ti un apasi I kantida na principat, interes, yan apas pot atrasao (late charges) $14,094.87 yan i resenable na apas abugado pot $500.00 gi halom trenta (30) dias despues di i fecha ni un resibe este na notisia, un ma konsidera komo ti unkomple I propriadat tano'mu ni un empepeña guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

Solo yangin halom trenta (30) dias dispues de un resibe este na kata yan un kontraminagahet-ña pot I apudera sino komo i pattida, siempre bai in hongge an asientadu a apudera. Pago tangin un kattayi han gi halom este i trenta (30) dias siklo man infofotma hao pot i apudera sino komo i pattida para un kontra, pues bai in henta infotmasion pot I dibi-mus dispues un ma kattayi i kopia pot este na de'unta. Anai in resive I kata-mu gi halon trenta (30) dias siklo, bai in nai'I hao i nai'I hao i na'an yan address I akredot komo ti parehu na akredot ma indika guini hulu.

Este na kata para u ma na'kesiña ma rikohi i dibi-mu. Maseha haga na infotmasion ni in resibe pot este na apudera – siña bai in usa para bai in ke-chagi mu rekohi para este I dibi-mu.

/s/
MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ.
Attorney at Law

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY • CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP-DCCA/CCDF-039

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 22, 2016 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"TO IMPLEMENT THE PILOT AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH ON THE CNMI CCDF QUALITY RATING & IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM (QRIS), A PROJECT UNDER THE DCCA – CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND PROGRAM

THE SCOPE OF WORK WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND OFFICE BUILDING NO. 1347 ASCENSION COURT IN CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN AT 1:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, ON FEBRUARY 05, 2016. ANY QUESTIONS, SHALL BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MS. MARIBEL S.D. LOSTE, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR VIA EMAIL AT ccdf.maribelloste@gmail.com OR BY FAX TO (670) 664-8547 NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, FEBRUARY 10, 2016. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH OTHER PROSPECTIVE PROPOSER(S).
THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ LAURA T. OGUMORO
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Position Title: Hospitality Administrative Specialist (Chinese Marketing)

Position Summary:
The Hospitality Administrative Specialist (Chinese Marketing) works with all aspects of administrative management, budget management, operational strategizing, contracts, financials, directory maintenance, logistics, purchasing, equipment inventory and storage.

Salary: USD 32,830 – USD 52,870 **Number of openings: 3**

Duties:
Arranges schedules of meetings, creates spreadsheets and presentations, accounting and financial reports, interprets and translates reports between English and Mandarin. Establish and implement departmental policies, goals, objectives and procedures, conferring with board members, organization officials and staff members as necessary. Review financial statements, sales and activity reports, and other performance data to measure productivity goal achievement and to determine areas needing cost reduction and project improvement. Monitor businesses and agencies to ensure that they efficiently and effectively provide needed services all staying within budgetary limits. Schedule meetings, interviews, events and other similar activities. Prepares and finalizes business correspondence (often using word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation computer software). Supports recruiting in the sales process and assists in the identification of new business. Frequently visits existing and potential customers. Ensures a positive customer service perception and reinforces a value added proposition to customers. Ensures self and team are capturing and cultivating customer loyalty. Ensure all new hires are properly onboarded after hire, including appropriate training. Partner with the Human Resources Department when needed to work through challenging conflicts. Creates, coordinates and implements plans to achieve week overweek sales growth. Manage inventory of assets and supplies, and receive reports of stocks and supplies from assistants. Coordinate between departments and operating units in resolving daily administrative and operational problems. Answer phone calls and direct calls to appropriate parties or take messages. Attend meetings to record minutes. Greet visitors and determine whether they should be given access to specific individuals. Read and analyze incoming memos, submissions, and reports to determine their significance and plan their distribution. File and retrieve corporate documents, records, and reports. Open, sort, and distribute incoming correspondence, including faxes and email. Prepare responses to correspondence containing routine inquiries. Manage and maintain executives schedules.

Qualifications:
Associate's degree or equivalent work experience. Minimum of three (3) or more years of experience in clerical or document handling, minimum of two (2) years in accounting work or education. Hospitality Management, Business Administration/Management, Commerce, Accounting, Hotel Management background is preferred. Ability to read, analyze, and interpret documents, such as policy procedure manuals, and other related documents. Able to communicate effectively in English and Mandarin (Written/Spoken).

To apply for this position, you are required to email your detailed resume to recruitment@bestsunshine.co or drop off an application to the Best Sunshine Office located on the 3rd floor of the Bank of Guam building in Garapan.

Closing date: January 16, 2016

Antonio King Mesgnon
Magdalena SanNicolas Mesgnon
PO Box 1027
285-1664

IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petition for the Appointment of Guardianship for:	)	FCD-GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0001(R)
	)	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
T.S.N.M. DOB (06/28/2009) A Minor Child,	)	
By:	)	
Antonio King Mesngon Magdalena SanNicolas Mesngon Petitioners.	)	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on Feb. 5, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. in Rota Courtroom, before the Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho.

Dated this 5th day of Jan. 2016.

Patrick v. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF TWO (2) UNITS PICKUP TRUCKS PROJECT NO. IFB-002-16

INVITATION FOR BID

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for the procurement and delivery of two (2) units Pickup Trucks; (a) one unit 2016 Access Cab, 4 cylinder engine, automatic transmission, two (2) wheel drive, with air conditioning, all other features as per factory specifications for CPA Rota Airport; and (b) one unit 2016 4/door, crew cab, 6 cylinder engine, automatic transmission, air-conditioning, all other features as per factory specifications for CPA Tinian Airport. Bidder shall take into consideration all charges associated with this procurement before finalizing its bid price.

Bidders shall guarantee delivery of the vehicle to CPA within 90 days from award of this bid and at which time; CPA will make payment within 10 days thereafter. Questions regarding this procurement should be submitted through the CPA Executive Director via email at cpa.receptionist@pticom.com with copy to atudela@cpa.gov.mp prior to January 19, 2016.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Bid for Procurement and Delivery of two (2) units Pickup Trucks, IFB-002-16". One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. Local Time, January 22, 2016, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Bids will be opened at 3:00 p.m. and publicly announced. Bidders are welcome to attend the bid opening. Bids submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any bids received after the bid submittal deadline shall be rejected and returned to the bidder unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation for Bids; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the bid would not be in the best interest of CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would not be in CPA's best interest

All bids shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This Invitation for Bid shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Acting Executive Director

Date: January 8, 2016

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950-1055
Tel.: (670) 236-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY AIR CONDITIONING PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICE AND REPAIRS SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND PORT OF SAIPAN (CPA-IFB-001-16)

INVITATION FOR BID

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed bids, subject to the terms and conditions of this Invitation for Bid (the "IFB"), and other contract provisions, for bids from firms, companies and/or corporations to provide Air Conditioning Preventive Maintenance, Service and Repairs at the Saipan International Airport and Port of Saipan.

This IFB is issued pursuant to Chapter 40-50 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (the "NMIC"). Title 40, including Chapter 40-50-205, Invitation for Bid, is applicable to the process followed by the IFB.

The Bid Package is available for pick-up beginning December 18, 2015 from 0800 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. The Bid Package includes the Scope of Work and other considerations upon payment of One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) to be paid at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor of the Departure Terminal Building. Bidders must submit all required documents listed in the bid package. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at the Saipan International Airport Conference Room, 2nd Floor of the Terminal Departure Building at 10:00 a.m., January 6, 2016, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A walk through of the Airport facility will be afforded to all contractors immediately after the conference, or may be scheduled with Jack Tagabuel' of CPA's Maintenance Department by calling telephone numbers 237-6532 or 483-4516. A subsequent walk through of the Port of Saipan facility will follow on January 7, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.. There are 142 units of air conditioning at the airport and 20 units at the seaport.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"Bid for air-conditioning preventive maintenance, service and repairs at the Saipan International Airport and Port of Saipan, CPA-IFB-001-16."** One (1) original and three (3) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than **2 p.m. LOCAL TIME, January 15, 2016,** to the Office of the Executive Director at the aforementioned location.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950-1055
Tel.: (670) 236-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

For the Supply, Delivery, Installation, & Commissioning of two (2)Runway PAPI Lights (Precision Approach Path Indicator) &two (2) REIL Lights (Runway End Identifier Lights) for the Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport, Rota Project No. CPA ROTA-RFP-009-16

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified electrical and engineering firms, company, and/or corporations to supply, deliver, install and commission two (2) PAPI Lights & two (2) REIL Lights at the Benjamin T. Manglona, Rota International Airport

The proposal package will be available beginning January 15, 2016, at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

A mandatory pre-proposal conference will be held at the Office of the Rota Ports Manager, Benjamin T. Manglona International Airport, at 0900 AM, January 29, 2016, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A subsequent site visit will be conducted in order to assess the area and determine equipment and materials needed for the installation.

All proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than 2:00 p.m., February 05, 2016.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Questions regarding this Request for Proposals may be submitted to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Saipan International Airport, via facsimile (fax) to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.receptionist@pticom.com no later than January 29, 2016. Response to inquiries shall be by addendum and provided to all proposers who have picked up the proposal package.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Executive Director

Date: 01/05/16

WANTED

NEWS REPORTER

The *Saipan Tribune* is looking for a FULL-TIME news reporter.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Above average writing skills and can work within deadlines;
- Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player;
- Computer literate;
- With photography skills;
- Must have reliable means of transportation.

If you have what it takes to be part of a dynamic team, email your résumé and samples of your work to editor@saipantribune.com. You may also drop it off at the *Saipan Tribune* office on the second floor of the JP Center Building on Beach Road, Garapan. ON-ISLAND HIRES PREFERRED.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.
Qualified women, minorities, and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Asia

Witness says 3 suicide bombers explode in Jakarta Starbucks

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—At least three suicide bombers exploded themselves in a Starbucks cafe in downtown Jakarta on Thursday while two gunmen attacked a police post nearby, a witness told The Associated Press. TVOne, a local television network, reported three other explosions in other parts of the city.

At least one policeman was killed in addition to the bombers.

The first explosion appeared to have triggered a gun-battle between the attackers and anti-terror police squads, and gunfire could be heard more than 1 ½ hours later.

Tri Seranto, a bank security guard, told The Associated Press he saw at least five attackers, including three suicide bombers who exploded themselves in the Starbucks.

He said he was out on the street when he saw the three men entering Starbucks and saw them blowing themselves up one by one. He said the other two attackers, carrying handguns, entered a police post from where he heard gunfire. He said he later saw one policeman dead and three seriously wounded.

He said he was not injured in the explosions as he was a little distance away, but close enough to witness the attack at 10.30 a.m. (0230 GMT).

He said the two gunmen ran away with police chasing them.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Gunshots were heard after the midmorning explosion in front of the Sarinah shopping mall and a police station. The area also has many luxury hotels, and offices and embassies, including the French. The other set of explosions were in neighborhoods where the embassies of Turkey and Pakistan are located.

Tweets from the account of Jeremy Douglas, regional representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, described a bomb and "serious" exchanges of gunfire on the street outside his Jakarta office. "Didn't experience this in 3.5 years in #Pakistan," he wrote.

AP

Police officers are deployed near the site where an explosion went off in Jakarta, Indonesia Thursday, Jan. 14, 2016.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Suicide attack on Pakistan polio vaccination center kills 15

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—A suicide attack on a polio vaccination center in southwestern Pakistan on Wednesday killed 15 people, mainly policemen gathered to escort health workers, officials said. It was the latest attack on the vaccination campaign and health workers have been repeatedly targeted in recent years by Islamic militants. The bombing on the outskirts of the city Quetta killed 13 policemen, a soldier and a civilian, said Shahzada Farhat, a police spokesman. He said 23 people were wounded. The suicide bomber detonated his explosives among the police officers, said provincial home minister Sarfraz Bugti. "We're in a war zone," he added.

India seeks answers about US tourist reported drowned

NEW DELHI (AP)—Lawmakers in India's coastal resort state of Goa have reportedly asked police for details about a U.S. tourist who allegedly drowned in a paddy field after being chased by local villagers. The state's highest elected official, Chief Minister Laxmikant Parsekar, says the man allegedly fell into the paddy field and inhaled the muddy soil near the village of Korgao, according to the Press Trust of India. The chief minister did not say when the tourist died or give any details about why villagers may have been chasing him.

Australia resists US pressure to boost efforts against IS

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia said Thursday that it was among 40 countries urged by the United States to increase their military contributions in Iraq and Syria following the Paris attacks in November. But Australia told the U.S. that its commitment would remain largely unchanged. The news of Australian resistance comes as Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull prepares to make his first visit to Washington as Australia's leader next week. Defense Minister Marise Payne's office said in a statement that the United States had asked 40 countries including European nations "to consider expanded contributions" to the U.S.-led coalition fighting in the Middle East after the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the Nov. 13 attacks on Paris cafes, restaurants, a sports stadium and a music hall that killed 130 people.

Pakistan announces 'several' arrests over attack in India

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan on Wednesday announced the arrest of "several individuals" from an outlawed Islamic militant group believed to be linked to a four-day assault on an Indian air base earlier this month that killed seven Indian soldiers.

The government announced the arrests in a statement after Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif presided over a meeting to discuss security issues. The meeting was also attended by Pakistan's army chief Gen. Raheel Sharif, the country's intelligence chief and other security officials.

The statement said an investigation into the incident has made "considerable progress," leading to the arrest of several individuals from the Jaish-e-Mohammad militant group. All six militants who took part in the attack were killed by Indian forces.

India has long accused Pakistan of turning a blind eye to Islamic militants who have staged cross-border attacks and battled Indian forces in the disputed Kashmir region.

Pakistan was quick to condemn the air base attack, and Sharif spoke to his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi, expressing condolences and saying Pakistan would investigate any information that India provides.

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Prime Pacific Properties, Inc. dba: Beacon Hill Condominium

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Prime Pacific Properties, Inc. dba: Beacon Hill Condominium is proposing to construct and operate an eleven storey condotel with 15 units of two to three storey villas . This use is classified as "Planned Development over 48ft" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This proposal is located on lot #069 D 05 along Isla Drive in Navy Hill. This lot is zoned as Rural.

Date: January 28, 2016, Thursday
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd Fl. Joeten Dandan Comm'l Bldg.

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, Wednesday, January 27, 2016 or via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp , or US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2013).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Castle Project (CNMI), LLC

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Castle Project (CNMI), LLC has proposed to amend its Conditional Use Permit to renovate and utilize an additional existing warehouse structure formerly used by Top Fashion Factory for employee quarters. This use is classified as "Institutional Residential" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located in Tanapag on lots 030 B 15 & 030 B 13. These lots are zoned as Mixed Commercial.

Date: January 28, 2016, Thursday
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd Fl. Joeten Dandan Comm'l Bldg.

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, Wednesday, January 27, 2016 or via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp , or US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2013).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

City Auto Shop

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. City Auto Shop is proposing to operate a general auto shop with paint booth. This use is classified as "Vehicle Repair, General" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This proposal is located on lot #004 D 44 along Puti Tainobiu Avenue in Garapan. This lot is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

Date: January 28, 2016, Thursday
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd Fl. Joeten Dandan Comm'l Bldg.

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, Wednesday, January 27, 2016 or via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp , or US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

World

Car bomb attack at Turkish police station kills 5

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—Kurdish rebels detonated a car bomb at a police station in southeastern Turkey, then attacked it with rocket launchers and firearms, killing five people, including civilians, the governor's office said Thursday. Thirty-nine other people were injured.

The attack late Wednesday targeted the police station in the town of Cinar, in the mostly-Kurdish Diyarbakir province, and police lodgings at the compound, the Diyarbakir governor's office said. The force of the blast caused a house close to the police station to collapse.

The attack killed two people at the police lodgings and three people died inside the collapsed house.

Another police station was also attacked with rocket launchers in Midyat town, in the province of Mardin, the state-run Anadolu Agency reported, in what appeared to be a simultaneous assault. No casualties were reported there.

The attack came a day after a suicide bomber detonated a bomb in Istanbul's main tourist district, killing 10 Germans. Turkish officials say the bomber was affiliated with the Islamic State group.

Clashes between Turkey's security forces and the rebels of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, reignited in July, shattering a fragile peace process.

Authorities have since imposed extended curfews in flashpoint neighborhoods and towns in the mainly Kurdish-populated southeast region of the country as the security forces battle Kurdish militants who are linked to the PKK. Those militants have mounted barricades, dug trenches and set up explosives to keep authorities away. The operations have resulted in more than a hundred civilian casualties, and displaced thousands, human rights groups say.

The conflict between the government forces and the PKK has killed tens of thousands of people since 1984. The group is considered a terror organization by Turkey and its western allies.

AP
A child stands next to candles during a vigil at the site of Tuesday's explosion, in the historic Sultanahmet district of Istanbul, Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2016.

US Navy sailors released unharmed by Iran in less than a day

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—It turned out to be the international crisis that wasn't.

Less than a day after 10 U.S. Navy sailors were detained in Iran when their boats drifted into Iranian waters, they and their vessels were back safely Wednesday with the American fleet.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry tapped the personal relationship he has formed with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in the three years of negotiations over Iran's nuclear program, speaking with him at least five times by telephone. Kerry credited the quick resolution to the "critical role diplomacy plays in keeping our country secure and strong."

U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter thanked Kerry after the sailors' release and couched the incident in humanitarian terms, noting that "the U.S. Navy routinely provides assistance to foreign sailors in distress."

For Tehran, the Americans' swift release was a way to neutralize a potential new flashpoint days before it was expected to meet the terms of last summer's nuclear deal, which will give Iran significant relief from painful economic sanctions.

It is likely that Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the final say on all matters of state, would have had to approve the release, given the immense political sensitivities.

But the rapid resolution also was a victory for moderate President Hassan Rouhani, who has promoted greater openness with the outside world despite strident opposition from deeply entrenched hard-liners at home.

"Rouhani's policy of interaction is working," said Iranian political analyst Saeed Leilaz. "Iran and the U.S. have gone a long way in reducing tensions but still have a long way to go in improving their contacts. It was a big step forward."

The nine men and one woman were detained Tuesday after at least one of their boats suffered mechanical problems off of Farsi Island, an outpost in the middle of the Persian Gulf that has been used as a base for Revolutionary Guard speedboats since the 1980s.

The Americans' small Riverine boats were sailing between Kuwait and Bahrain on a training mission when the U.S. lost contact.

The sailors left the island at 0843 GMT (3:43 a.m. EST) Wednesday aboard their boats, the Navy said. They were picked up by Navy aircraft, and other sailors took control of the vessels for the return voyage to Bahrain, where the U.S. 5th Fleet is based.

Cmdr. Kevin Stephens, a 5th Fleet spokesman, said the priority now would be determining "how exactly these sailors found themselves in Iran."

He declined to say where they were going or give details on their identities, but a senior defense official said they were heading to a U.S. military facility in Qatar. The official, who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly, said they are being debriefed and getting medical exams but were not harmed.

In Washington, a defense official said the Navy has ruled out engine or propulsion failure as the reason the boats entered Iranian waters. Navigation problems, due either to human or mechanical failure, could not be ruled out, said the official, who was not authorized to discuss details of the incident and so spoke on condition of anonymity.

WORLD BRIEFS

US, Iran forge new relationship as nuke deal advances

WASHINGTON (AP)—For diplomats from countries without diplomatic relations, Secretary of State John Kerry and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif sure are doing a lot of diplomacy. As Iran races to satisfy the terms of last summer's nuclear deal and the U.S. prepares to suspend sanctions on Tehran as early as Friday, Kerry is talking to Zarif more than any other foreign leader. Those talks included several emergency calls Tuesday to secure the release of 10 U.S. sailors after Iran detained them in the Persian Gulf. Since the beginning of the year, Kerry and Zarif have spoken by phone at least 11 times, according to the State Department. They've focused on nuclear matters, Iran's worsening rivalry with Saudi Arabia and peace efforts in Syria.

Suspect detained in death of US woman in Florence

MILAN (AP)—A Senegalese immigrant was detained Wednesday in the strangulation death of a 35-year-old American woman, just hours after crime scene investigators returned to her Florence apartment to search for clues identifying her killer. Ashley Olsen was found nude on her bed in her rented apartment on Saturday after her boyfriend had the owner open the door, alarmed that the woman had failed to respond to phone calls. The body had bruises and scratches on the neck, and an autopsy determined that she had been strangled with a cord or a rope. The Italian news agency ANSA reported early Thursday that police detained the suspect Wednesday based on DNA evidence taken from the scene. Investigators had narrowed in on the suspect using video surveillance cameras along the route from the nightclub that showed them together Friday morning, a day before Olsen's body was found. The man was known to authorities for being involved in the local drug scene.

Drug lord flirted with Mexican actress, cared less for movie

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Transcripts of over a month of text messages between drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman and Mexican actress Kate del Castillo showed the capo was less interested in making a movie about his life than he was in flirting with the actress.

The transcripts published Wednesday by the newspaper Milenio—and confirmed as authentic by a federal official—showed that Guzman's main concern was getting face-to-face get-togethers with Del Castillo, and that he didn't even really know who Sean Penn was.

Penn has acknowledged that he tagged along for the Oct. 2 meeting at a mountain hideout originally set up by Del Castillo.

"What's that actor's name?" the account identified as Guzman's writes in one message. He later asks his lawyers to tell him what movies Penn has appeared in. Even when Guzman dedicated a video statement as an "exclusive for" Del Castillo and Penn, the drug lord stumbles over Penn's first name, pronouncing it "SAY-ahn."

The federal official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he or she was not authorized to be quoted by name, said the dozens of texts were authentic. Many expressed admiration and a longing for the next meeting, more than concern about the purported movie project.

"I'll tell you, I am more excited about you than the (movie) script," Guzman wrote to Del Castillo. He identified her in his chat or text account as "ermoza," a misspelling of the Spanish word for "beautiful." ''I'll take care of you," he adds.

Another text from the drug lord reads: "How is the best and most intelligent woman in the world, who I admire a lot?" At one point, Guzman—who is reportedly married to former beauty queen Emma Coronel, and has had children with her and several other women—writes "My mother wants to meet you. I told her about you."

"I want you with all my heart," he wrote.

Off The Wall

‘Silence of the Lambs’ house for sale but nobody is biting

PERRYOPOLIS, Pa. (AP)—A Pennsylvania couple is struggling to sell a house used as the home of psychotic killer Buffalo Bill in the 1991 film “The Silence of the Lambs.”

Scott and Barbara Lloyd listed the house last summer, but they’ve dropped the asking price from $300,000 to $250,000.

The three-story Victorian in Layton was the second-most clicked home on Realtor.com last year, but Scott Lloyd told the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review that the publicity has attracted curiosity seekers, but no serious buyers.

“We’re finally starting to see a little bit of motion,” Lloyd said.

The home’s location in a tiny village about an hour’s drive southeast of Pittsburgh works against it. So does the fact that it has only one bathroom to go with its four bedrooms.

“Even though it’s got notoriety, location still is a big deal,” said Erik Gunther, a senior editor and expert on unique homes for Realtor.com.

The foyer and dining room were depicted in the film, but no, there’s no dungeon pit in the basement where the killer played by Ted Levine kept his victims before killing and skinning them. Those grisly scenes were filmed on a soundstage.

A film crew spent three days shooting in the home near Perryopolis. The Lloyds are selling the house, where they raised their son, because they’re downsizing into a ranch-style home they’re building a few miles away.

A couple months after buying the home, the Lloyds were married Feb. 13, 1977, in the foyer where Levine’s character first meets the FBI agent portrayed by Jodie Foster.

Anthony Hopkins won an Academy Award for playing Dr. Hannibal Lecter, a crazed, cannibalistic psychiatrist whose macabre clues help rookie Agent Clarice Starling track down and kill Buffalo Bill in his home. Foster also won an Oscar.

“The fact that a home gets a ton of publicity doesn’t necessarily add up to a quick sale,” Gunther said. “Just because I want to gawk at something doesn’t mean I want to buy it.”

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

1st-graders to Vikings kicker: Buck up, it’s OK

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—After many Minnesota Vikings fans ripped kicker Blair Walsh for missing a 27-yard field goal that could have given the team a win in Sunday’s playoff game, some first-graders used it as a lesson in empathy. Walsh’s miss in a 10-9 loss to Seattle drew intense vitriol on social media, with some fans inviting him to leave the state—and worse.

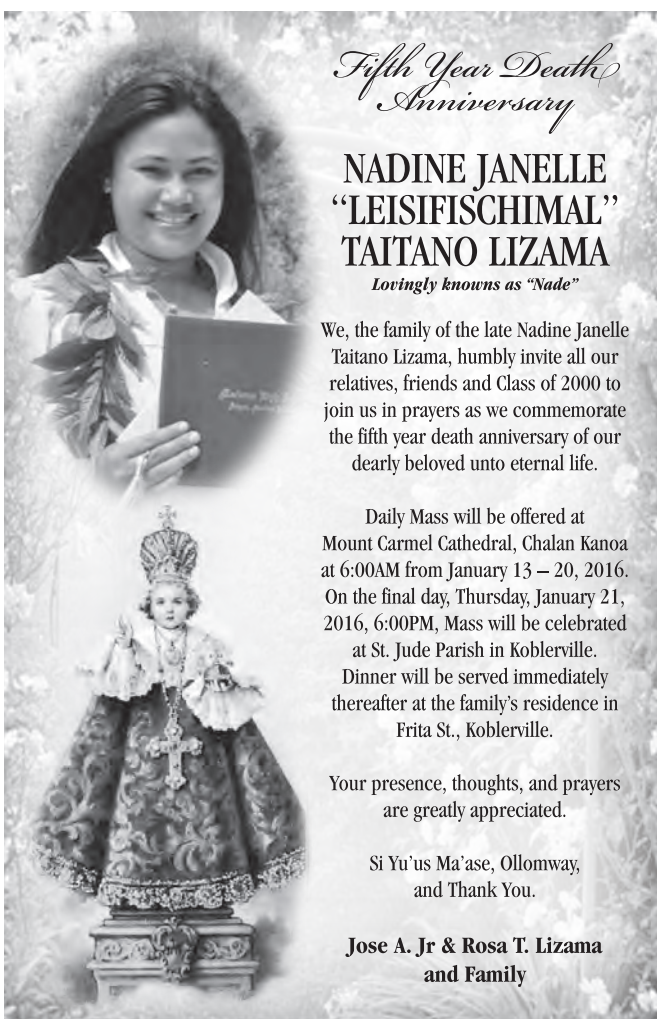
Judie Offerdahl, a teacher at Northpoint Elementary in suburban Blaine, saw a teachable moment for her first-graders, so the students grabbed their magic markers and started drawing and writing. “Dear Blair Walsh,” one wrote. “I know it can be hard to get through things that are sad, but you have to try and try again. Everyone makes mistakes sometimes.” Vikings spokesman Jeff Anderson tells the Star Tribune the team will make sure Walsh gets the letters.

Police: Boy agreed to be set aflame while friend filmed it

HOLLIDAYSBURG, Pa. (AP)—Police say two 13-year-old boys in Pennsylvania are facing disorderly conduct charges after one agreed to be set on fire so the other could film it and post it online. Pennlive.com reports the stunt took place on New Year’s Day in Frankstown Township. State police say one of the boys put lighter fluid on his clothes and the other used a blowtorch to ignite the clothing while he recorded it. Police say the boy who was on fire had a difficult time extinguishing the flames but eventually managed to put them out, avoiding injury. The stunt was never posted online.

Mental health CEO who hired fortuneteller gets prison

BATTLE CREEK, Mich. (AP)—The head of a southwestern Michigan mental health agency has learned his future: at least 32 months in prison for using public money to hire a fortuneteller. Ervin Brinker was sentenced by a Lansing-area judge Wednesday, two months after pleading guilty to embezzlement and Medicaid fraud conspiracy. Brinker was CEO at Summit Pointe, a mental health organization in Battle Creek. He was accused of spending $510,000 on a palm reader and her husband in Key West, Florida, and concealing it from others.


Fifth Year Death Anniversary
NADINE JANELLE
“LEISIFISCHIMAL”
TAITANO LIZAMA
Lovingly knowns as “Nade”
We, the family of the late Nadine Janelle Taitano Lizama, humbly invite all our relatives, friends and Class of 2000 to join us in prayers as we commemorate the fifth year death anniversary of our dearly beloved unto eternal life.
Daily Mass will be offered at Mount Carmel Cathedral, Chalan Kanoa at 6:00AM from January 13 – 20, 2016. On the final day, Thursday, January 21, 2016, 6:00PM, Mass will be celebrated at St. Jude Parish in Koblerville. Dinner will be served immediately thereafter at the family’s residence in Frita St., Koblerville.
Your presence, thoughts, and prayers are greatly appreciated.
Si Yu’us Ma’ase, Ollomway, and Thank You.
Jose A. Jr & Rosa T. Lizama and Family

Science & Technology

If you think drones are just a passing fad, better think again

LAS VEGAS (AP)—If you’re used to thinking of drones as a passing fad, last week’s CES gadget show should give you second thoughts.

AP

The Fleye drone flies at Fleye booth during CES International, Thursday, Jan. 7, 2016, in Las Vegas. The single propeller of the drone is enclosed for safety.

Tiny, self-piloted copters promise to buzzily follow you around like something out of a Neal Stephenson cyberpunk novel. New drones that could find lost wilderness adventurers or help them see out above treetops; others purport to carry a human passenger at the touch of a button.

None of this, of course, will be happening overnight. Limited battery life means that many commercial models can’t fly for more than about 20 minutes at best. Manufacturers haven’t yet figured out the best way to keep many tiny drones where they ought to be, given that GPS positioning sucks too much power for their minuscule batteries. Obstacle avoidance systems that would let small drones pilot themselves are still under development. And looming over the entire field are new government rules intended to keep people safe, but which may also slow innovation.

So far, none of those obstacles are slowing down an industry that appears to be in full lift-off. The Consumer Technology Association estimates that U.S. consumer drone spending will more than double to $953 million next year. ABI Research believes the global market for drones will hit $8.4 billion in 2018, with users ranging from the military and oil companies to farmers, journalists, and backyard tinkerers.

As drone capabilities continue to grow, drones may become a mass-market product for average consumers in about three years, says Patrick Moorhead, principal analyst of research firm Moor Insights & Strategy.

TECH Q&A

Some help for the rural Internet blues

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

I recently suggested that consumers avoid using Verizon Wireless MiFi devices for Internet access because the unit’s unexpectedly high data usage caused people to overrun their limited monthly data plans. But rural readers with few Internet access alternatives are asking what to do.

They face two problems: MiFi devices, which convert a cellular signal into a Wi-Fi hot spot for PCs and other gadgets, often download more data than customers were led to expect. Verizon Wireless says that’s caused by software running in the background of PCs. If so, PC users would fare better with an unlimited wired Internet service, but those are rare in rural areas.

Barbara Waldrop, who lives outside of Lake Wales, Fla., uses a MiFi because wired cable TV Internet service isn’t available and satellite Internet service is slow and affected by weather. MiFi “has a faster connection (than satellite), but I’m having the data usage problems that everyone else is talking about. What are my other options for Internet?”

Vivian Gibson of Bartow, Fla., has a similar MiFi problem. She wishes she could preserve her monthly data allotment by filtering out website advertising. “I’ve had to limit visiting certain websites because I’m unable to opt out of these ads,” she said.

A: The availability of Internet service varies widely based on where you live. But consumers can find out which wired services are available to them by typing in their ZIP code at sites such as tinyurl.com/hq7sofg or tinyurl.com/gw8tnz7. For example, typing in the ZIP code for Lake Wales reveals that landline telephone company Verizon (which is separate from cellular company Verizon Wireless) offers an unlimited, but relatively slow 1-to-3 megabit-download DSL land line service for $35 a month. It might be a practical MiFi alternative for Waldrop, who already has land line phone service. Verizon also offers faster downloads (up to 15 megabits) in some parts of her area, but she’ll have to call to see if she’s eligible for them.

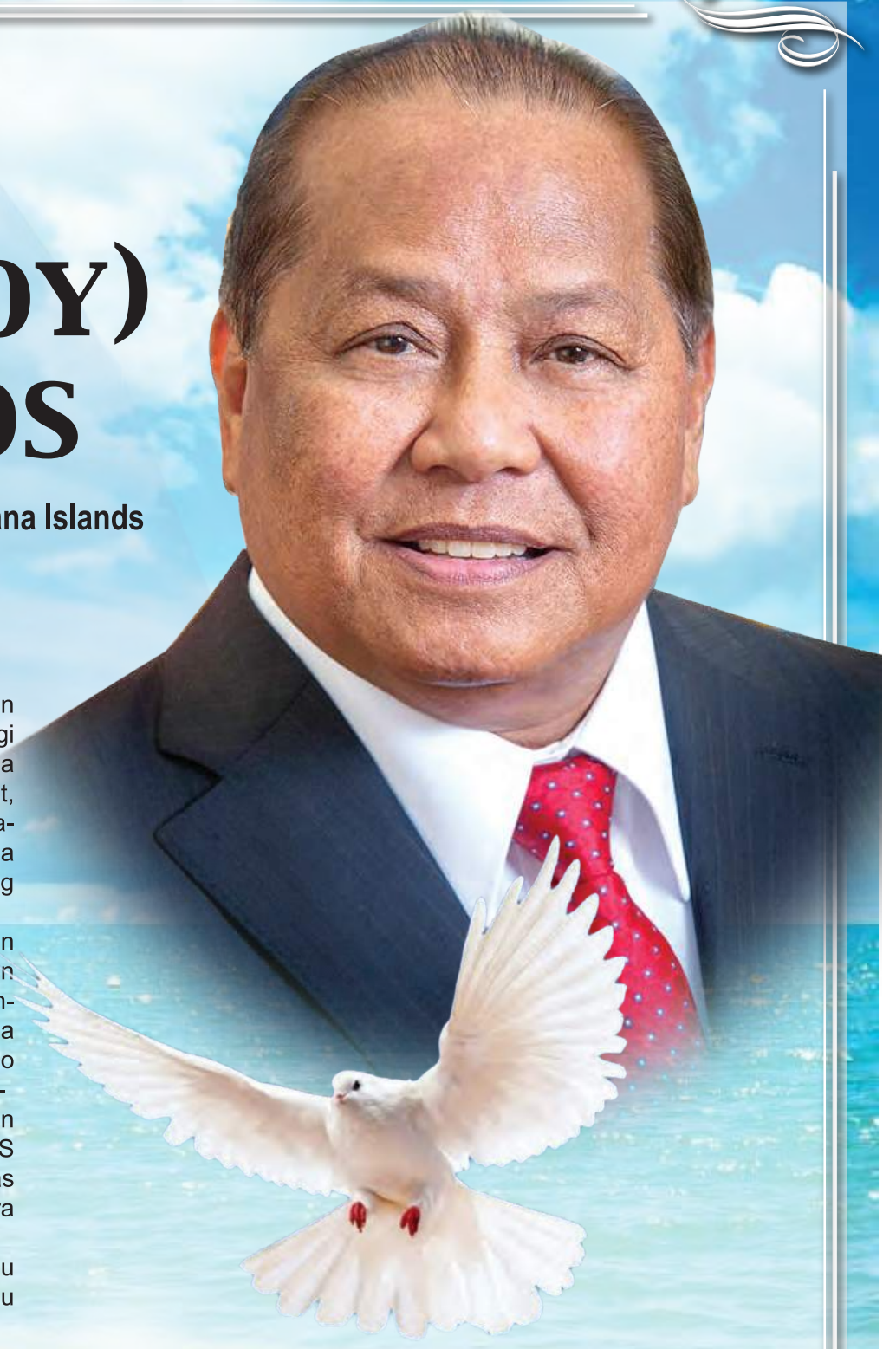
If there’s no better alternative to MiFi Internet service in your rural area, you can use ad-blocking software to minimize the amount of data you download. While there is much debate about whether ad-blocking is a good idea—in the long run it might eliminate free Internet content that is supported by advertising—a rural Internet user on a limited data plan may not have any other choice. For a list of free ad-blocking programs, see tinyurl.com/zfkmro7. For more on the ad-blocker software debate, see tinyurl.com/q3rw2q5.

Q: How can I convert a PostScript (.ps) file I received into an Adobe Systems PDF (.pdf) file that’s easily read and printed?

A: Several websites will convert your Postscript file to a PDF for free. See tinyurl.com/jncye4s, tinyurl.com/jx8e8d7 or tinyurl.com/znad5xw. (Ignore the ads urging you to download other, unrelated software. The file conversion is done online.)

†Eulogio (Eloy) Songao Inos

Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands



Mensåhin Agradesimiento

Para todu i taotao enteramenti Marianas yan I man atungo' ihot yan chågu, Un Sen Dångkulu Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse' ginen i tadudong gi hålom i korason måmi. Tåya palåbra siña mu ekspresa i tinadong na gratifikasion yan agradesimiento giya hami pot i meggai na tinayu'yot, supottasion yan guinaiya ni todu en nå'e si tatan måmi. Makat i korason måmi anai man pininiti ham ni tinaigue-ña lao i abundånsia na supottasion yan konsolasion ni en resibi ginen hamyo mu'na ñalalang yan mås libiånu dididi.

Man malingu hit un sen maolek na taotao ni gof dångkulu yan sen umitde i korason-ña yan i minagof -ña para hu fan ayuda. I disision siha ni ha fatinas todu i tiempo put interes minaulek para i Commonwealth yan todu i taotao-na siha. Bula na sakrifisia siha ha fatinas, ha gåsta meggai na ora, diha yan puengi sen maigu ni para hu aligao adilånto yan minaulek para i tanota Marianas yan i linala todu i taotao-na. Man sen magof ham nu todu i ha kumple yan puedi ni na' fan magof hamyu lokkue. In kuenta ginen i familian Inos, SI YU'OS MA'ÅSE para todu i taotao giya Marianas ni en na'e i si tatan-mami as Honorapbli Maga'lahi Eulogio Songao Inos ni onra yan opitunidåt para hu setbi hamyu.

Puedi i nuebu na såkkan hu na fatto guinaiya, pås, minagof, hinemlu yan fottuna para todu. I fabot yan supottasion miyu todu i tiempo hu gaige gi hålom i korason måmi.

Si Yu'os hu bendisi hit todu yan i gatbo na islas Marianas.

I Famagu'on

Arongorongul Towlap,

Ngáalir alongér aramasal commonwealth me yaasch abwibibwi ikka relo me retaw sangi falawasch. Eew tóómoghol ghilisow me llól bwulowmem. Ese yoor Kkepas e abwari tool yamam apilughlugh, reel yami yóótegh me yami abwari yami faiyé me kkafisch, ngali Samam. E sughuw llol bwulow mem reel yaal mwetchengi ghamam Semam, nge reel alongal yami alilis me tepengi ghamam, e sóór meschéragh ló.

Aa mwetchengi ghiisch Samwool ye eghi tumwogh ghatchil llól bwulol, bwe ebwe tepengiir llal aramas. Yaal apelúghúlúgh nge llól ghatchul mwóghutughutul falawasch me layir aramas. Eghi aschoscho llól yaal weires, bwulul ebwe aweeweey me affata alongaal allégh, bwe ebwe alisir alonger aramasal faluw; mwal, schóbwut, me olighat.

Eghi meseigh llól bwulomam, reel alongal ghuleyal me yaal angang /// Sangi ghamam olighaat me alongér familiyaar INOS, Ai ghaal ngale ghami tómoghool ghilisoow me olomwaay reel yami ngaley Samwool Gobetno ye yaasch Eulogio Songao Inos bwe ebwe tepengi ghami.

Kkafisch, , Ameiseigh, me ghatchil lolo ebwe torighami loll raagh yeey. Luugh ebwe faiye ghiisch me mile falwasch Commonwealth.

Sangi ghamam llayir Olighat.

Message of Appreciation

To the dear people of the Commonwealth and friends near and far, Un Sen Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase from the bottom of our hearts. Words cannot express the deep gratitude and appreciation that we have for the mountain of prayers, overwhelming support and unconditional love that you all have given to our father. Our hearts are heavy as we mourn his loss but the tremendous support and comfort that we have received from all over the world have made the weight lighter and easier to bear.

We lost a great man who had a big and humble heart with the passion to help. The decisions he made were always for the best interest of the Commonwealth and her people. He made a lot of sacrifices, spent countless hours, days and sleepless nights to find solutions to improve and better the state of the Commonwealth and the lives of every man, woman and child. We are extremely proud of all his accomplishments and hope that he made you proud too. On behalf of the Inos family, THANK YOU to the people of the Commonwealth for giving our beloved Honorable Governor Eulogio Songao Inos the honor and opportunity to serve you.

May the New Year bring Love, Peace, Happiness, Good Health and Prosperity to all. Your kindness and support will forever be in our hearts. God Bless us all and our great Commonwealth!

The Children

Life & Style

Giving back to the community one village at a time

There are many gratifying rewards in driving a team to reach out to a community with the goal of instilling pride in one's surroundings and primary environment. There are plenty of opportunities to help keep Saipan beautiful. A great way for a company to draw groups and individuals to make a difference is by setting in motion projects that bolster community goodwill and pride.

A CSR worker restores flowering plants. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CSR workers haul piles of trash and other litter during its cleanup drive.

Water-blasting at Laly 4's basketball court. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Aptly called Village Pride Project, the neighborhood cleanup and beautification campaign was initiated by Best Sunshine International, Ltd.'s tandem corporate social responsibility teams to fulfill the company's commitment to give back to the community.

"I designed the Village Pride Project to get CSR in the villages, working with villagers providing support with beautification, " explains CSR director Rita Chong.

The whole vision, according to Chong, is to bring pride into the community.

And for the past months, this has led to growing collaboration with the community and other stakeholders, allowing them to take part and ownership of community-oriented programs that value and promote collective work.

Activities under the Village Pride Project is also about partnership—and connecting the private sector to the community, one that extends beyond corporate work to build a stronger and sustainable community beautification and development programs that result in greater community involvement and engagement.

"For all of us to be proud of the villages we live in and to be motivated to work together to beautify our villages so that when our visitors come to our island, they will also want to come see the beauty of our villages and what makes each one unique," adds Chong.

These projects offer the company the chance to actualize and explore potentials for community involvement by means of repair and restoration projects around the island's neighboring villages. Whether it's reconstructing a playground, repairing worn down amenities visiting the *man'amko* center, or clearing debris and unkempt areas of villages, the Village Pride Project of Best Sunshine's CSR teams is an excellent way to bring about change at a personal level.

Village Pride also promotes partnerships with different agencies that assist BSI in their efforts to beautify and improve the CNMI.

According to Geri Dela Cruz, CSR 2 director, the "Village Pride Project is something special to me. This is my home, and home to the other 50 members of CSR. Going into communities and assisting in improving our islands is something that we all take pride in."

She adds, "To cite an example, we are very happy with the outcome of the Dandan Village Pride event. When we assessed Dandan, there wasn't a doubt that this place needed some TLC. We chose to make improvements at the Dandan Homestead Children's Park. Dandan is very fortunate to have something like this in their community. I don't know of any other place [on] Saipan that has something like this. When we first came in, all we saw were overgrown grass. After we started cleaning the grassy areas, we noticed that there was a playground there donated by Tan Holdings. As we continued our work in Dandan, we see children that joined us after school as they play in the playground. Such a great feeling." ***(BSI)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The animal shelter before improvements were made by BSI.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The spanking new animal shelter after it was repaired by the CSR team.

Vandalism and graffiti covers this structure. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Clean up work in restoring the facility's old look. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Setting up the groundwork for the playground equipment.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CSR team recycling the playground equipment at Dandan Middle School.

NBC: Fallon in best shape ever despite falls

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Jimmy Fallon's series of falls have raised some concern among NBC executives, but the network entertainment chief said Wednesday that the late-night comic is "in better shape than he's ever been."

The "Tonight" show host hurt himself in falls three times within five months last year, the most serious in June requiring delicate hand surgery after he caught his ring finger on a countertop. Fallon, 41, chipped a tooth in a fall while getting medication for his hand and bloodied his other hand in October after falling while holding a bottle at a Harvard University appearance.

"We are always worried about this safety and his health and, yeah, there have been conversations about that," said NBC Entertainment Chairman Robert Greenblatt.

Asked about published reports that Fallon parties too hard, Greenblatt said that "he doesn't have a drinking problem that any of us know about. He goes out and he has fun and he's had some accidents. Aside from that, I think he's in better shape than he's ever been."

A spokeswoman for Fallon had no comment Wednesday about Greenblatt's remarks.

AP

In this May 12, 2014 file photo, The Tonight Show host Jimmy Fallon attends the NBC Network 2014 Upfront presentation at the Javits Center in New York.

Despite the falls, Fallon has consolidated his strength in the ratings. He's late-night television's most popular personality, despite the well-publicized start of Stephen Colbert on CBS.

NBC announced on Wednesday that it was doing a two-hour anniversary special with Fallon on Feb. 14, and that he'll be traveling to Los Angeles for a week of show earlier in the month.

NBC's entertainment chief defends Trump appearance

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—NBC's entertainment chief said Wednesday he saw no contradiction in having Donald Trump host "Saturday Night Live" less than six months after the network severed its business ties with the GOP presidential front-runner for remarks about Mexican immigrants.

If the network never had guests who its executives disagreed with publicly, "we would be out of business," NBC Entertainment Chairman Robert Greenblatt said.

The network in June cut ties with its former "Celebrity Apprentice" host and ended its joint venture with Trump to air the "Miss USA" and "Miss Universe" beauty pageants. But on Nov. 6, Trump hosted "SNL," earning the show's best ratings in two years as well as demands from other candidates that they get equal time.

"We're not in business with him, but love him or not, he's one of the most important political figures of our time," Greenblatt said.

When the network cut its ties with Trump in June, it never imagined he would have the political impact that he would have, he said. Not only did Trump shoot to the top of the polls, he became an instant television attraction that helped Republican debates reach record viewership levels and increase the ratings of most programs on which he appeared.

NBC specifically cited Trump's comments that Mexican immigrants are "bringing drugs, they're bringing crime, they're rapists and some, I assume, are good people" in its June business decision. Trump made the remarks when he announced his presidential candidacy.

Nielsen: 31.3 million watched Obama's last State of Union

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—The Nielsen company says 31.3 million people watched President Barack Obama deliver his last State of the Union, his smallest audience for the annual speech.

His lowest previous was last year's State of the Union, which had 33.3 million viewers. Nielsen says Obama's ratings peak was his first State of the Union in 2009, which was seen by 52.4 million people. This year's speech was carried live on 12 networks and on tape delay on Univision.

Obama has something in common with his predecessors: the least-watched State of the Union speech by Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton was their last.

Actress Sherri Shepherd appeals surrogacy ruling

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Actress Sherri Shepherd is appealing a Pennsylvania court ruling that found her responsible for a child born to a surrogate before she divorced.

The Legal Intelligencer reports Wednesday that Shepherd is appealing the Superior Court decision to the state's high court.

Shepherd's ex-husband, Lamar Sally, is raising the 1-year-old boy in Los Angeles and has sought $4,100 in monthly child support from the actress.

Court papers show Shepherd paid more than $100,000 in fees to a New Jersey agency and supported the Pennsylvania surrogate's pregnancy until her marriage faltered. She then tried to void the contract.

Surrogacy advocates say the Superior Court ruling last year is the first to declare surrogacy contracts legal and binding in Pennsylvania.

Shepherd worked on several sitcoms and co-hosted ABC's "The View."

William Needles, Canada's oldest working actor, dies at 97

NEW YORK (AP)—William Needles, Canada's oldest working actor who graced the stages of Broadway, London and the Stratford Festival for almost 50 years, died Tuesday at a hospice in Alliston, Ontario, according to a Stratford representative. He was 97.

Needles, a member of the Order of Canada, appeared in more than 100 productions at Stratford over 47 seasons, appearing in everything from "Alice Through the Looking-Glass" to "Henry VI."

"The Stratford Festival has lost one of its pioneers, a gifted actor and a favorite uncle. Bill Needles was the embodiment of grace and generosity. His humor, humanity and sense of fun infused his work on and off the stage," said Stratford's artistic director Antoni Cimolino.

Born in New York and raised in Kitchener, Ontario, Needles studied at the Goodman School of Drama at the Art Institute of Chicago before joining the Stratford Festival in its inaugural season in 1953.

He made his Stratford debut in "Richard III," under the direction of Tyrone Guthrie. His last performance at the Festival stage was as Castruchio in 2006's "The Duchess of Malfi."

Unexpected Thanksgiving guest took self-guide tour of home

DEAR ABBY: I lived with my mother, who passed away recently. I invited my cousins over to the house for Thanksgiving. One of them invited a cousin-in-law I had never met.

When I woke from a nap, the cousin-in-law was here and asked me about our walk-in bathtub, which means that while I was asleep on my mother's bed, she had entered my mother's bedroom and private bathroom. I was flabbergasted.

She also asked to keep a program I showed her from Mom's service. I wanted to refuse (I still haven't sent programs to out-of-state friends and relatives and am unsure how many I may need), but I let her keep it.

Should I say something to let her know how inappropriate it was for her to give herself a tour of my home before she even met me?

INVADED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR INVADED: No, but you should absolutely say something to the cousin who invited a stranger to your Thanksgiving dinner without permission, and compounded it by leaving that person unsupervised while you slept. While you may not be able to teach either of them better manners, at least you will have made clear that you won't tolerate that kind of rudeness in the future.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 31-year-old nail biter and have been one for as long as I can remember. As an adult, I'm now attacking my cuticles to the point that they bleed.

If I feel a hangnail, I have to push it down or rip it out. It may be stress-related, but sometimes I don't even realize I'm doing it.

I have stopped biting my nails twice, but that's because I used to get manicures weekly. I can't afford them anymore. The stuff that "tastes bad" doesn't taste so bad it stops me.

I'd like to be able to show off my future wedding band. A co-worker said she thinks I have some sort of OCD. Could she be right? I know I need help. Do you have any suggestions on how I can help myself?

DIANA IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR DIANA: I do have one that may be helpful. Keep an emery board and cuticle scissors nearby at all times -- including in your purse, at your desk and where you watch television. That way, if you break a nail or get a hangnail, you can smooth it out immediately and you won't feel so compelled to chew. Try it. Others have told me it fixed their problem.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 25-year-old virgin and have never been in a relationship. I would like to wait to have sex until I'm married. Do you think I'll regret it, since it doesn't look like I'll be married before I'm 30?

Do you have any thoughts on when to tell a man I'm dating that I'm still a virgin? Should it be on the second or third date, when we become exclusive, or after that? And if I ever get exclusive, how would I tell that person I've been single all of my life without sounding like I'm weird?

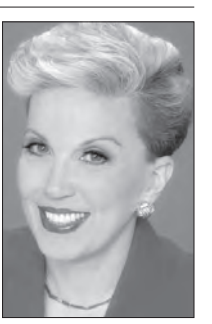
STILL SINGLE IN WISCONSIN

DEAR SINGLE: There's nothing "weird" about a 30-year-old man or woman being single these days. People are marrying later than in years past, so you shouldn't feel defensive about it. As to when to reveal that you are a virgin, the time to discuss it would be when a relationship progresses to the point where physical intimacy enters the picture.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

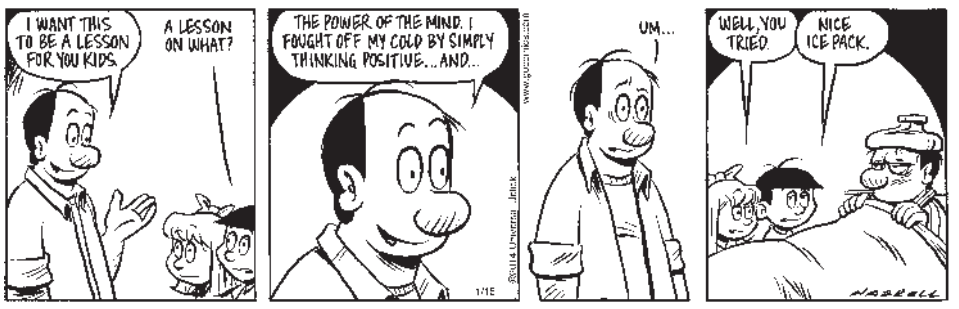
CALVIN AND SUSIE, WOULD YOU COME IN MY OFFICE, PLEASE?
IT WAS ALL HIS FAULT, MR. SPITTLE!
THAT'S A LIE! SHE STARTED IT!
ARE YOU GOING TO SPANK US?!?
I'LL NEVER PASS NOTES AGAIN! DON'T SPANK US!!
WAAAHHHH!! I WISH WE WERE DEAD!!
I HATE THIS JOB.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

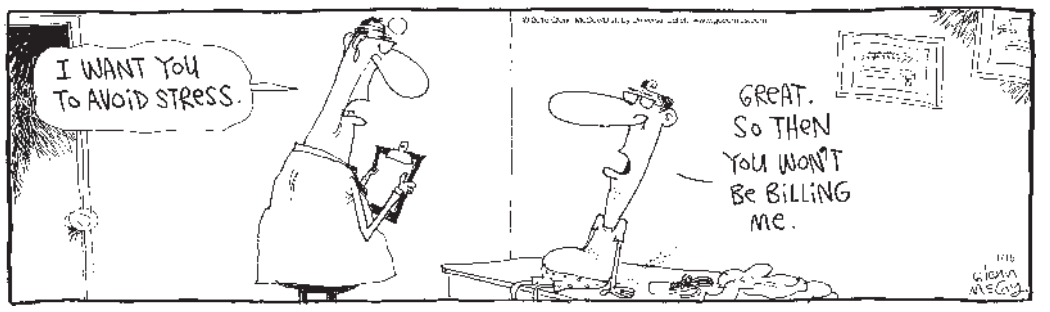
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I WANT THIS TO BE A LESSON FOR YOU KIDS.
A LESSON ON WHAT?
THE POWER OF THE MIND. I FOUGHT OFF MY COLD BY SIMPLY THINKING POSITIVE... AND...
UM...
WELL, YOU TRIED.
NICE ICE PACK.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

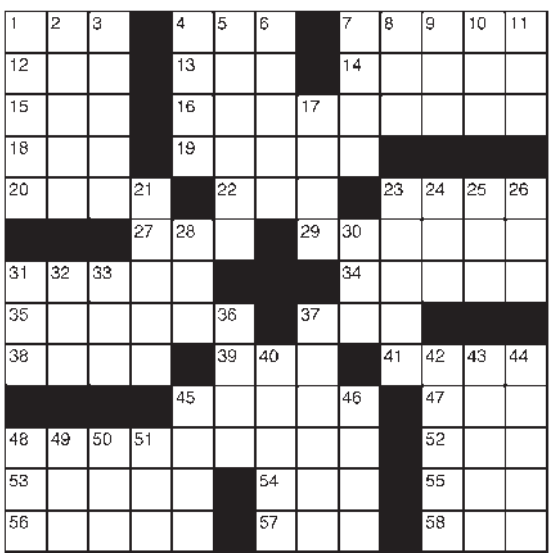
ACROSS
1 Lanka lead-in
4 Nile biter
7 D-Day beach
12 Take the gold
13 Life-guard's skill (Abbr.)
14 Gdansk natives
15 Actress Gardner
16 Logo, often
18 Cat's cry
19 Planted
20 Thing
22 French 101 article
23 ET vehicles
27 Louvre display
29 Road crew
31 A deadly sin
34 Parking spots
35 Red wine
37 — Aviv
38 Fix, in a way
39 Sly laugh
41 Bard's river
45 Store events
47 Fury
48 Samuel Clemens
52 Spy org.
53 Shinbone
54 Part of TNT
55 — Lingus
56 Goo-covered
57 Ballpark fig.
58 "Kid-napped" mono-gram

DOWN
1 Hindu teacher
2 Metal fastener
3 Stupefied
4 "Macbeth" parts
5 Young bean
6 Shrimp's kin
7 News-paper pg.
8 May honoree
9 Fla. neighbor
10 "And I Love —"
11 Query
17 Profound
21 Like crazy
23 Soft palate dangler
24 Not agin, to Daisy Mae
25 Eyeball
26 Draft agcy.
28 Classic Olds
30 Air hero
31 Siesta hrs.
32 Agt.
33 Nest egg acronym
36 Spring meltdown
37 Not ours
40 Tickle pink
42 Parish priest
43 Bay window
44 Draws nigh
45 "Don't go!"
46 Tizzy
48 Swiss high pts.
49 Feel flush
50 Hitter's stat
51 Novak or Basinger

Solution time: 26 mins.

H	A	D	■	S	A	P	S	■	S	W	A	P
E	R	A	■	■	R	A	N	■	W	A	I	T
D	A	T	E	L	I	N	E	■	A	L	D	A
■	■	E	V	E	■	G	A	R	G	L	E	S
C	U	B	A	N	S	■	K	E	G	■	■	■
O	N	O	■	A	M	■	V	E	H	V	E	■
A	D	O	S	■	M	U	D	■	R	A	I	D
T	O	K	E	N	■	S	O	D	■	I	N	D
■	■	■	C	A	B	■	C	A	R	N	E	Y
B	R	I	T	■	I	F	■	K	I	O	■	■
R	E	N	O	■	J	U	P	T	O	D	A	T	E
A	D	A	R	■	R	E	N	T	■	T	A	N
T	O	N	S	■	B	E	T	A	■	E	G	G

Yesterday's answer 1-15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Drew Brees, 37; Regina King, 45; Chad Lowe, 48; Mario Van Peebles, 59.

Happy Birthday: You will have plenty to think about this year and lots of opportunities to explore your ideas and plans. Your talents, skills and desire will help you achieve what you set out to do, as long as you don't let personal problems take over and slow down your progress. Moderation will help protect your health, wealth and reputation. Your numbers are 6, 17, 19, 24, 30, 39, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Breathe deeply and refrain from saying something you may regret. Focus on affection, perfection and doing your best. Learn from your past mistakes and limit unnecessary spending. Make romance a priority and work on self-improvement. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Talks will lead to new beginnings. Your opinion will be valued and your input welcomed. Put an original spin on whatever you do, and you'll inspire others to be just as detailed and innovative as you. You can expect recognition and rewards. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Mull over the pros and cons of the relationships you have with others. Both work and personal partnerships may need an overhaul. Consider who is a good influence and who isn't. It's time to get your priorities straight. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Try not to react impulsively. You may not adjust well to unfamiliar surroundings, but if you give it time, you will discover something wonderful. Explore different cultures or lifestyles. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You will experience different situations and prosper from the results. A change will fire you up and give you the incentive you need to follow through with your plans. Love and celebrations are highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't leave yourself open to criticism. Get out with people who are positive and supportive. The less time spent with negative individuals, the more relaxed you will be. Avoid joint financial ventures and protect your money and possessions. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Get out with friends or spend time with that special person in your life. Don't let domestic problems interfere with your plans to do the things that make the most sense to you. A trip will do you good. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You can talk your way into anything. Use your experience and intuition to guide you toward the destination that makes the most sense for you. A unique change will make your life more convenient. Relentless determination will bring stellar results. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll be subject to a faceoff with someone who is likely to play dirty. Don't rely on secondhand information. Be willing to make personal changes if it will solve a problem you are experiencing. Do what's best for you. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Tidy up loose ends so that you can enjoy what you've worked so hard to accumulate. An ingenious idea will motivate you to invest in something that will help you bring in extra cash. Don't pay for others and avoid joint ventures. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Check out different vocations. Consider your current situation and how you can best use your skills in order to bring in extra cash. An idea you have will give you greater leverage to work from home. Romance will improve your personal life. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Guard against heartache. Keep your feelings a secret until you know exactly where you stand. Listen, observe and size up what to do next. Being consistent and staying within your means will be the difference between failure and success. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are hardworking, progressive and shrewd. You are responsible and courageous.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4	1		6		7	5	
			2					
	2		7				8	
						2	7	
4			5		8			3
	9	3						
	7				1		3	
					9			
	5	6		3		4	2	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	5	7	3	1	6	8	9	4
1	4	8	5	9	2	7	6	3
6	3	9	8	7	4	1	5	2
3	8	2	4	5	1	6	7	9
9	1	6	2	3	7	5	4	8
4	7	5	6	8	9	3	2	1
8	6	3	9	4	5	2	1	7
7	2	4	1	6	3	9	8	5
5	9	1	7	2	8	4	3	6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/1

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

RISK MANAGEMENT Solution: 9 letters

P	C	E	Y	Y	G	O	L	O	N	H	C	E	T	C
R	H	T	C	M	A	T	R	I	X	Ⓕ	Ⓔ	Ⓐ	Ⓡ	O
E	A	A	A	N	E	G	A	T	I	V	E	E	E	M
V	N	C	R	R	O	T	I	N	O	M	D	A	S	M
E	G	U	U	M	R	B	A	N	K	I	N	G	P	U
N	E	D	C	E	A	N	U	E	T	A	W	L	O	N
T	S	E	C	O	C	C	S	S	L	O	E	O	N	I
I	C	N	A	I	M	U	E	Y	I	G	I	S	S	C
O	U	A	A	B	A	P	Z	U	A	N	V	S	E	A
N	T	L	P	L	U	E	L	L	T	A	E	E	C	T
H	S	A	C	M	D	J	E	I	L	I	R	S	A	I
I	D	E	N	T	I	F	Y	U	A	G	C	E	S	O
C	A	S	S	E	T	S	E	T	A	N	R	A	E	N
G	A	I	N	S	S	E	S	S	A	H	C	I	L	S
V	E	S	D	R	A	D	N	A	T	S	D	E	B	T

©2015 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 1/15

Accuracy, Agree, Analyze, Assess, Assets, Audits, Banking, Business, Case, Cash, Changes, Clause, Communications, Compliance, Credit, Cuts, Debt, Educate, Fear, Financial, Gains, Identify, Impact, Legal, Losses, Matrix, Monitor, Negative, Pharmaceutical, Prevention, Response, Review, Standards, Technology, Threat, Uncertain, Value

Yesterday's Answer: Oscillation

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 120 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

USED GUNS WANTED
looking to buy functional used guns, good conditions and registered; mini-14, 22 caliber, 41OS.

Please call 483-5155

Vacancy Announcement

(1)Beautician Assistant/Aid – Atleast High School graduate. Must have a hair and cosmetology skills. Willing to work flexible time.

Submit Applications To:
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Tel. 235-7270

Warehouse for RENT
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Warehouse #3 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL
235-6527/28 or 285-1317

Backhoe for Rent
For inquiries, please call
285-0478
- Security Services
- General Help Supply Services
- Heavy Equipment Rental
- Auto & Heavy Equipment Repair Shop

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Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) Interior Designer
- with 4 to 5 years experience

If interested, send resume to:
PMB 2025 Box 10001
Tel: 285-5354 or 285-4297

Auto Marine Inc
has a job opening for

(1) Motor Boat Mechanic
Must be knowledgeable in repairing motor boat engine, overhauling, and boat fiber glassing. At least 3 years work-related experience.

Interested applicants, please call Mr. Adonis Santos at 323-2916 for more information.

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NEW 2, 3, and 4 bedroom energy efficient apartments in Saipan.
Lower utility costs up to 70% through solar panels and solar hot water.
OPEN HOUSE • MONDAY-FRIDAY • 9AM - 4PM
For pictures, amenities, and application information visit our website
www.ironwoodhousing.com
or call 670-233-4348. Applications are being accepted Monday - Friday, 8:30a.m. to 5:00p.m. and on Saturday, 9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m., at Ironwood Community Center on Middle Road, Gualo Rai.

LOOKING FOR
SURROGATES
If you are female between the ages of 21 and 40, have had at least one natural child birth, and are interested in learning more about being a surrogate, please call Evelyn @ 322-0419. Compensation is over $22,000.

Pacific Corporation dba
SPN Auto Center
is looking for the following positions:

1 – Painter
3 – Mechanic
Must have three years experience for both position. Starting salary is $6.05/hour.

Interested applicants, please send resume to mao.autoshop@gmail.com or mail it to P.O. Box 504991, Saipan, MP 96950.
For more information, please call (670) 285-0009

Vacancy Announcement

(2) Maintenance - Atleast high school graduate . A valid driver's license. Ability to use efficiently various power and hand tools. Knows how to follow oral written instructions and can communicate efficiently and fluently in both witten and oral form.

(1) Auto Mechanic - Must have atleast 2 yrs. work related experience. Excellent diagnostic/ repair skills of vehicle systems. High self motivation.

(1) Househelper - Knowledge in cooking Chinese,Japanese, Thai, Cuisine is a must. Experienced in household chores like cleaning, ironing, gardening, paying bills, and baby sitting. With valid driver's license.

(1) Automotive Body Repairer - Atleast 5 yrs. working experience. Willing to work flexible time and dependable. Hardworking and trustworthy.

Submit Applications To:
AYD Services Inc. Tel. # (670)235-7011

WANTED
PT-Sales Rep with car.
US citizen preferred.
Email resume:
system4u@teleguam.net
Fax: 671-646-4908

Job Opening:
Headmaster for Saipan International School
- Start date: July, 1, 2016.
- 2 year contract with options to renew.
- Salary is negotiable commensurate with experience.
- Requires a Master's or Doctorate degree in Educational Administration or equivalent

Send résumé to: jkvsaipan670@aol.com

Saipan International School shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, nationality, or ethnic origin in the administration of the school's educational policies, privileges, admission policies, athletic programs, and other school administered programs made available at Saipan International School.

www.saipantribune.com

Tian Zi Corporation
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CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

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Curry scores 38 but Warriors lose to Nuggets, 112-110

DENVER (AP)— Stephen Curry was just about unstoppable in the fourth quarter, except near the very end.

Curry scored 20 of his 38 points in the final period but lost the ball under defensive pressure from Danilo Gallinari in the game's final moments, and the Denver Nuggets hung on to hand the Golden State Warriors their third loss of the season, 112-110 on Wednesday night.

"It was a great opportunity to try to tie the game or take the lead," Curry said about the last of his eight turnovers. "Got stuck between looking for the open man and handling the ball, and one little mishandle and Gallinari got it."

The defending NBA champion Warriors (36-3) had won seven straight since their previous defeat, 114-91 at Dallas on Dec. 30.

Harrison Barnes added 18 points and Klay Thompson had 17 for the Warriors.

Gallinari led the Nuggets with 28 points but it was his defense at the game's critical moment that made the difference, Nuggets coach Michael Malone said.

"Gallo has proven this year he can guard most players on the floor," Malone said. "And he did a great job. He got into a stance, forced a deflection, was first to the floor and comes out with the loose ball. Those are winning plays. Those are what separate teams and we had enough winning plays tonight where we were able to withstand the furious comeback that they made."

Will Barton added 21 points for the Nuggets, who snapped a four-game losing streak to the Warriors despite being outscored 37-29 in the final period.

A dunk by Brandon Rush gave the Warriors a 68-64 lead, but Denver outscored Golden State 19-5 over the last 5 1/2 minutes of the third quarter to take a 10-point lead into the fourth.

The Warriors, however, kept chipping away as Curry led the charge.

Layups by Curry and Andrew Bogut cut the deficit to 102-97 with 2:05 remaining. Curry and Barton then traded 3-pointers before Darrell Arthur hit a jumper with a minute left for a 109-102 Denver lead.

But the Warriors fought back, getting a layup from Barnes and a 3 from Curry sandwiched around a Nuggets turnover, pulling to 109-107 with 37.1 seconds left.

And it appeared the Warriors had the Nuggets right where they wanted.

"That fourth was a barrage of 3s," Denver forward Kenneth Faried said. "Steph stepped over halfcourt and made one and I was just like, 'Man, not this again.' But we held them off."

With defense.

With the Warriors in position to tie or go in front, Gallinari stole the ball from Curry.

"I think he lost the ball and it came towards me and I just dove to the ball," Gallinari said.

He started a fast break that ended in Gary Harris, who finished with 19 points, being fouled and making a pair of free throws.

Thompson hit a 3-pointer with 3.4 seconds remaining to pull the Warriors to 111-110. They fouled Gallinari intentionally and he made one of two free throws, but Thompson missed a long jumper at the buzzer.

"It felt good," Thompson said. "If I got my legs into a little bit more, I think it would have gone in. It was on line, it was just short."

The Warriors, who trailed by as many as 10 earlier, pulled to 55-54 at halftime on Barnes' jumper in the final seconds of the second quarter.

Gallinari had 15 points in the first half, including a reverse layup that preceded Barnes' final shot in the second quarter to keep the Nuggets on top at the break.

AP

Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry reacts after turning the ball over to the Denver Nuggets late in the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2016, in Denver.

Clippers 104, Heat 90

In Los Angeles, backup center Cole Aldrich had 19 points and seven rebounds in place of ailing DeAndre Jordan, and Los Angeles used a third-quarter surge to beat Miami for its 10th straight victory.

Jordan was sidelined because of pneumonia, ending the NBA's longest active consecutive games played streak at 360.

The eight-year veteran, who led the league in rebounding the past two seasons, had the second-longest streak in franchise history behind Randy Smith's 595 straight games with the Buffalo Braves.

Chris Paul had 15 points and 12 assists for Los Angeles, which is 9-0 since leading scorer Blake Griffin went down with a partially torn tendon in his left quad. Aldrich, a five-year veteran making his first start in 17 games with the Clippers, made seven of 14 shots while playing a season-high 24 minutes.

Miami (22-17) is the only team the Clippers have faced during their winning streak that currently has a record of .500 or better.

Reserve guard Gerald Green led the Heat with 19 points and Dwyane Wade added 16 points and eight assists. Miami's third straight loss equaled its longest skid of the season.

Thunder 108, Mavericks 89

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant had 29 points and 10 rebounds, and Oklahoma City romped when Dallas sat out its usual starters.

Thunder star Russell Westbrook was ejected in the second quarter after getting his second technical foul following skirmishes with J.J. Barea. Westbrook went scoreless.

The Mavericks played the second night of a back-to-back after an overtime loss to Cleveland and coach Rick Carlisle chose not to use his five regular starters — Dirk Nowitzki, Wesley Matthews, Chandler Parsons, Deron Williams and Zaza Pachulia.

Celtics 103, Pacers 94

In Boston, Isaiah Thomas scored 28 points, Jae Crowder matched his career high with 25 and Boston snapped a four-game losing streak with a win over Indiana.

Amir Johnson had a season-high 18 rebounds and scored 14 points for the Celtics, who beat the Pacers for the first time this season after losing the first two meetings.

Paul George led Indiana 23 points. George Hill had 13 for the Pacers, who wore their old-fashioned Hickory High School uniforms from the movie "Hoosiers."

Boston closed with a 12-0 run over the final 1:46.

Nets 110, Knicks 104

In New York, Brook Lopez scored 20 points, Thaddeus Young had 19 points and 11 rebounds, and Brooklyn ended its 10-game home losing streak with a victory over New York.

The Nets also snapped a five-game overall skid with their first victory under interim coach Tony Brown, who took over when coach Lionel Hollins was fired and general manager Billy King was reassigned on Sunday.

Joe Johnson made two key jumpers in the final 2 minutes and finished with 14 points, seven rebounds and six assists for the Nets in their first home victory since beating Philadelphia on Dec. 10.

Derrick Williams tied his career high with 31 points for the Knicks, who played without leading scorer Carmelo Anthony (sprained ankle) and had their two-game win streak snapped. Kristaps Porzingis shot 5 for 17 on his way to 12 points and 10 rebounds.

The Knicks had a two-point lead with 5 minutes to play before the Nets took control with a 10-2 run.

Wizards 106, \Bucks 101

In Washington, John Wall scored 19 points and backcourt mate Bradley Beal had 11 in his return from injury to help Washington beat Milwaukee.

Beal came off the bench and played 22 minutes in his first game since Dec. 9. He had been sidelined with a stress reaction in his lower right leg.

Ramon Sessions added 15 points and Jared Dudley had 13 for the Wizards, including two late 3-pointers to help preserve a third straight win.

Khris Middleton scored 25 points to lead Milwaukee, which allowed 36 points off a season-high 27 turnovers in its fourth loss in the last six games. Greg Monroe added 21 points and 12 rebounds.

Rockets 107, Timberwolves 104

In Houston, James Harden had 27 points and 11 assists as Houston won its season-high fifth in a row. Minnesota lost its season-worst eighth straight.

Dwight Howard added 15 points and 10 rebounds, and Terrence Jones came off the bench to score 16 with nine rebounds for the Rockets.

Andrew Wiggins had 28 for the Timberwolves.

Hornets 107, Hawks 84

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Kemba Walker scored 23 points and Charlotte pulled away from Atlanta to stop a seven-game losing streak.

Cody Zeller added 19 points and 10 rebounds, and Jeremy Lin had 19 points for the Hornets.

Paul Millsap scored 20 points for the Hawks.

Trail Blazers 99, Jazz 85

In Portland, Ore., Damian Lillard had 21 points and 10 assists, and Portland shook off a slow first half to beat Utah.

CJ McCollum added 15 points and eight assists for the Trail Blazers, who led by as many as 20 in the second half after the teams traded the lead in the first. It was Portland's second consecutive victory following a three-game losing streak.

Gordon Hayward had 19 points for Utah, which had won two straight. The Jazz have not strung together three consecutive wins this season.

Pelicans 109, Kings 97

In Sacramento, California, Eric Gordon made six 3-pointers and scored 24 points, Anthony Davis also had 24 and New Orleans snapped a four-game skid by beating Sacramento.

The Pelicans tied a team record by hitting 16 3-pointers. Gordon was 6 for 12 from long range and New Orleans went 16 for 33 overall.

New Orleans led by 15 at halftime and used a 15-0 run in the third quarter.

Norris Cole had a season-high 18 points and Ryan Anderson hit four 3-pointers and scored 18 for the Pelicans, who had lost six of seven.

Davis (bruised back) missed the previous two games and his status was questionable earlier in the day. He had 10 rebounds and two steals.

DeMarcus Cousins had 32 points and 12 rebounds for the Kings. Rajon Rondo added 17 points and 10 assists.

Pneumonia ends DeAndre Jordan's streak of 360 consecutive games

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Los Angeles Clippers center DeAndre Jordan has been scratched Wednesday night against Miami because of pneumonia, ending the NBA's longest active consecutive games streak at 360.

Jordan last missed a game on March 23, 2011, after being diagnosed with a mild case of pneumonia.

The eight-year veteran has been sick for at least the last four days, coach Doc Rivers said.

Jordan's playing streak was the second-longest in the history of the Clippers franchise behind Randy Smith's 595 straight with the Buffalo Braves.

Jordan has won the last two NBA rebounding titles and is the franchise leader in that category.

Source: Giants hire Ben McAdoo to replace Coughlin

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—The New York Giants didn't have to look far to find a replacement for Tom Coughlin.

Offensive coordinator Ben McAdoo has been promoted to take over the team that has missed the playoffs the past four seasons, a person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The 38-year-old McAdoo has been on the fast track since reviving the offense over the past two seasons. He got the first interview for the job after the 69-year-old Coughlin stepped down after 12 seasons and he made an immediate impression.

The coaching search lasted less than 10 days.

The story was first reported by several media outlets.

The Giants have liked what McAdoo has done with the offense the past two seasons, helping two-time Super Bowl MVP quarterback Eli Manning get back on track.

It didn't hurt that Manning voiced support for his coach after the season. This would be McAdoo's first head coaching job.

It is uncertain whether defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo, who also interviewed for the top job, will stay.

"Excited for Coach McAdoo," cornerback Prince Amukamara said in a text to The Associated Press. "I figured him or Spagz would have been a great pick. I'm sure his players and the fans are all excited."

McAdoo would be the NFL's second youngest coach. Adam Gase, the Chicago Bears offensive coordinator who was hired by the Dolphins, is 37.

The Giants interviewed six men after Coughlin stepped down. They intended to interview Cincinnati offensive coordinator Hue Jackson on Thursday, but he accepted the Browns job hours before the Giants decided on McAdoo.

McAdoo got the first shot at the Giants' job and he must have made an immediate impression.

He also impressed the Philadelphia Eagles when he interviewed for their coaching vacancy.

Under McAdoo's leadership, Manning threw 65 touchdowns and 28 interceptions the past two seasons. He has 18 touchdowns and 27 interceptions in 2013.

McAdoo learned under Coughlin and has shown some of the same attitudes as his 69-year-old mentor. He is not afraid to gamble.

In the season opener against Dallas this past season, he went for the win, calling a pass play on third down in the red zone in the closing minutes.

A touchdown would have iced the game. Instead, Manning made a mistake throwing the ball away and that stopped the clock. New York kicked a field goal to take a six-point lead but the extra time allowed Dallas to come back and win the game late.

That aggressive play calling, though, has been a part of McAdoo's game. He believes in his offense and he is not afraid to put the game in the unit's hands.

McAdoo joined the NFL in 2004 as an offensive quality control assistant with the New Orleans Saints, spent a year with the 49ers the following year and then joined the Green Bay Packers for the next eight seasons, working with the tight ends and the final two years as Aaron Rodgers' quarterback coach.

The Giants hired him in 2014 to replace Kevin Gilbride and his version of the West Coast offense—and the addition of Odell Beckham Jr.—has helped revive the offense.

Patriots won't let Jones' trip to hospital distract them

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—After a year of "Deflategate," the New England Patriots aren't about to let Chandler Jones' still-unexplained trip to the hospital bother them.

"I think coach (Bill) Belichick does a great job of really just, like, brainwashing us," defensive back Duron Harmon said on Wednesday as the Patriots prepared for their playoff game against the Kansas City Chiefs.

"We just try to ignore all the distractions, whether it's that situation or 'Deflategate,' or any other distraction," he said. "We just try to ignore the noise."

A Pro Bowl selection who was fifth in the NFL with 12 1/2 sacks, Jones was admitted to a local hospital and released later the same day on Sunday with an unspecified emergency that also involved the Foxborough police.

Jones was not available during the 45 minutes that the Patriots locker room was open to reporters before practice on Wednesday. He was seen on the field during the stretching portion of practice. The team said in a statement that he has not missed practice or any team meetings.

Asked whether the league would be investigating the incident, NFL spokesman Greg Aiello declined to comment.

Tight end Rob Gronkowski was also back at practice on Wednesday, a day after he was not there for the media portion. Gronkowski was also not available during the open locker room session.

The team listed him as having limited participation in practice—one of a dozen Patriots in that category on Wednesday's practice report—because of a knee injury. Quarterback Tom Brady was listed as a full participant with the ankle injury he sustained in the regular-season finale against the Miami Dolphins.

Jones' teammates declined to comment about his situation except to say they are concerned about his health.

"Chandler's got a lot of support in this locker room," receiver Danny Amendola said. "He's a great football player, and I'm excited to see what he does this week."

A few hours after beating the Indianapolis Colts in the AFC championship last year, the Patriots were bombarded with accusations that they had supplied improperly inflated footballs for in the game. A league investigation found it was "more probable than not" the team had an illegal scheme to deflate the footballs and that Brady was "at least generally aware" of it.

But Brady's four-game suspension was overturned by a federal judge. The appeal is scheduled to be heard after the season.

Neither the deflated football investigation nor Brady's looming suspension seemed to bother team, which won its first 10 games this season. And players said that whatever Jones went through on Sunday won't distract them from their divisional playoff game against the Chiefs, either.

The Boston Herald first reported that Jones was rushed to Norwood Hospital after showing up at the Foxborough police station. The Patriots confirmed that Jones was admitted to the hospital and released the same day.

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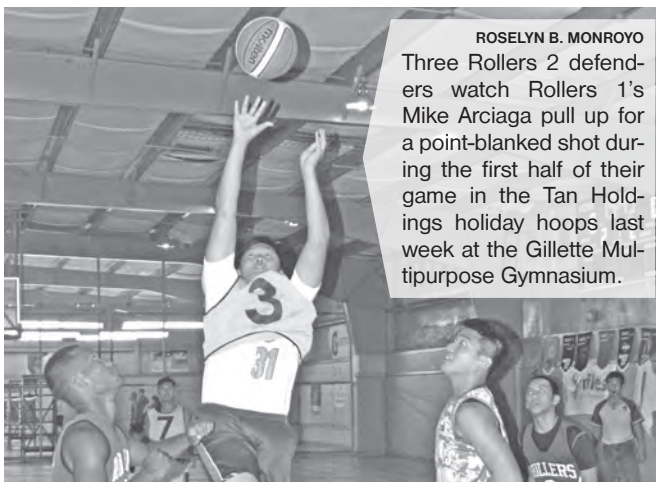
By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rollers 1 nears elimination round sweep

Rollers 1 gained its third win in as many games in the boys U19 division of the 2015 Tan Holdings Christmas Basketball Tournament after outclassing the Ol'Aces, 53-49, last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

With its 3-0 record, Rollers 1 is on top of the five-team field and a win away from sweeping the round-robin elimination, while the Ol'Aces absorbed their first loss in three matches for a share of second place with the Sonics.

Rollers 1 managed to pull off the close win after making crucial free throws in the homestretch. It earned its last 5 markers from the foul line with John Darag knocking in three charities and Jethro Cruz making a pair.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Three Rollers 2 defenders watch Rollers 1's Mike Arciaga pull up for a point-blanked shot during the first half of their game in the Tan Holdings holiday hoops last week at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Cruz top-scored for Rollers 1 with his 16 points, drilling 10 of them in the second half to keep his team on the lead, while Mike Arciaga contributed 15.

Aiferson Atan paced the Ol'Aces with his 14 markers.

In other results last week, Rollers 2 split its two games, prevailing against the Runnin' Rebels (0-3) first, 62-58, before bowing to the Sonics, 45-72.

Rollers 2, which led by 10 at the break, 36-26, had to withstand the Runnin' Rebels' rally in the second half to make it to the win column after a 0-2 start. Chris Aneo hit three straight baskets for Rollers 2 in the closing minutes, while Angelo Factor, John Babauta, and Aaron Ogumoro also hit timely shots to save their team from collapsing.

Rollers 2 next faced the Sonics last Saturday and the former failed to keep its momentum, allowing the latter to cruise to victory.

Art Borromeo and Djay Ong led the Sonics' rout of Rollers 2, scoring 22 and 15 points, respectively. Borromeo dropped 12 of his total points in the first half, while Ong chipped in 8 to give the Sonics a promising 39-21 halftime advantage.

Rollers 2 never made headway in the second half to fall to a 1-3 record and fourth place in the team standings.

SATURDAY
First Game

Sonics 72 – Borromeo 22, Ong 15, Bondoc 10, Castro 4, Espinosa 4, Kintaro 4, De Guzman 4, Rivera 2, Javier 2.

Rollers 2 45 – Gamab 8, Ogumoro 6, Aneo 4, Dela Cruz 4, Tengco 4, Hudkins 3, Abobo 2, Cobacha 2, Babauta 2, Deleon Guerrero 2.

Scoring by halves: 39-21, 72-45.

Second Game

Rollers 1 53 – Cruz 16, Arciaga 15, Darag 9, Ellama 5, Dancoe 4, Alipio 4.

Ol'Aces 49 – Atan 14, Stefano 7, Nakashima 6, Cristobal 5, Francisco 5, Moses 5, Castillo 2.

Scoring by halves: 28-23, 53-49.

THURSDAY

Rollers 2 62 – Aneo 14, Ogumoro 11, Tengco 8, Factor 5, Gamab 5, Abobo 4, Babauta 3, Mendoza 2, Ichihara 2, Deleon Guerrero 2.

Runnin' Rebels 58 – Siech 18, Sablan 12, Ngiraroas 7, Atalig 6, Pangelinan 5, tadeo 3, Augustin 2, Jones 2, Hopkins 1.

Scoring by halves: 36-26, 62-58.

Change of venue for coed grass volleyball

The 2016 Reverse Coed Grass Volleyball Tournament will be held at the Capital Hill softball field instead of the Navy Hill ballfield tomorrow, Jan. 16.

The change of venue is because Saipan Little League teams are using Navy Hill for practice in preparation for the upcoming season.

Tyce Mister and Kathy Winkfield are organizing this year's tournament, a two-person reverse coed event.

Last year, J.R. Gechig and Charnessa Lizama ruled the tournament with the latter claiming his second straight crown.

Lizama partnered with John Nekaifes to went undefeated and win the 2014 edition. They defeated the pair of Clay McCullough-Stearns and Somia Quan in the finals.

This will be the first event of the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association and they would next prepare for the hosting of the 24th Annual Marianas Cup and Kids Cup Beach Volleyball Festival. ***(Jon Perez)***

SGA Ace of Aces tourney this weekend

The Saipan Golf Association will hold its two-day 2015 Ace of Aces Tournament this weekend at the Marianas Country Club in Marpi and Laolao Bay Golf & Resort west course.

Day 1 of the club's season-ending tournament is set tomorrow, Jan. 16, with an 8am show time and a 9am tee time at the Marianas Country Club.

Day 2 of the Ace of Aces tourney will be held Sunday, Jan. 17, at Laolao with an 8:30am show time and 9:30am tee time.

SGA Ace of the Month winners Ed Manibusan (January), John "Nanni" Cruz (February), Larry Deleon Guerrero (March), Jung Eun Teack (April), Alex Tudela (May), Juan Lizama (June), Jess Castro (July), Nick Sablan (August), Frances Sablan (September), Greg Sablan (October), Rick Kautz (November), and Ray Salas (December) have qualified for the 2015 championship tourney. ***(SGA)***

TAN

From Page 32

Palacios, who missed the first two games in the best-of-three semis series.

Tan Holdings then widened the gap further in the second quarter, 41-19 with Jarett Matsutaro this time anchoring the team's offense as he dropped all his 12 markers in that frame. Matsutaro, who only tallied 2 points in their sorry loss in Game 2, drew help from Matt Duenas and three other teammates to give Tan Holdings a comfortable 22-point halftime advantage.

McDonald's fell into a deeper hole in the second canto despite making two more field goals, as shooters Michael and Joseph Achas could not get into their rhythm and big man Gil Gapor was limited to 2 points. Before their lackluster performance in the first half of Game 3, Michael, Joseph, and Gapor combined for 50 points in their Game 2 upset against Tan Holdings.

Gapor then stepped up in the third period, firing 11 points to bring the deficit down to 14, 40-54, going into the final frame.

However, that was the closest that McDonald's could get, as Tan Holdings saved the best for last with Palacios and Duenas teaming up for their team's strong finish. The two former Saipan Southern High School standouts combined for 13 of Tan Holdings' 23 markers in the fourth quarter or 4 more than the total output of the entire McDonald's crew. McDonald's made only four field goals in the fourth quarter and 5 of their 9 markers came from Gapor.

Gapor ended up top-scoring for McDonald's with his 18 points, while McClain was the only other player on the squad to hit double figures with 12, but he got only 2 points in the fourth canto. Michael finished with 7, a far cry from his 25 points in Game 2. Joe Ayuyu Jr., who had 10 points in Game 2, was held to 2 markers in the rubber match.

While McDonald's relied mostly on big men Gapor and McClain Achas, Tan Holdings got contributions from several players. Duenas was in his usual deadly form, nailing a team-high 18 points, while four of his teammates also hit double figures and three more totaled 12 markers.

Meanwhile, Game 1 of the best-of-three title series between Tan Holdings and Joeten will begin on Monday. Game 2 is set for Wednesday, while Game 3, if necessary is scheduled next Friday. Joeten made it to the finals early after sweeping Commonwealth Utilities Corp. in their own best-of-three semis showdown, earning 15-point winning margins in Games 1 and 2, 96-81, and 90-75.

Tan Holdings 77 – Duenas 18, Matsutaro 12, Nonato 12, Quizon 12, Palacios 11, Rivera 6, Esdrelon 4, Pablo 2,

McDonald's 49 – Gapor 18, Mc. Achas 12, J. Achas 9, Mi. Achas 7, Ayuyu 2, C. Achas 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-7, 41-19, 54-40, 77-49.

NMIVA

From Page 32

with six from NMIVA—the size of the CNMI delegation to the Vanuatu Mini Games.

The CNMI has no official golf federation and players are scattered in a number of groups like the Amigos Golf Club, CNMI Women's Golf Association, FilTaga, Korean Golf Association, Marianas Golf Association, Refaluwasch Golf Association, and the Saipan Golfers Association.

Some RGA members represented the CNMI in last year's Pacific Games in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

NMIVA, at first, was planning to send two teams from each division given the time frame of their preparation but the organizing committee of the 2017 Games set a limit of participants.

Peterka said that they would soon start with the tryouts for the two men's and women's teams that would don the CNMI colors in Vanuatu.

Next to be settled are the coaches or officials that would accompany both pairs as two of the certified mentors—Jeff Carlucci and Darcie Wylie—have already left Saipan with Codie Sayles set to leave either in June or earlier.

This leaves NMIVA with Kathy Winkfield, Russ Quinn, and Tyce Mister as the other coaches, but the former is set to give birth in May.

Last year, Andrew Johnson and Clay McCullough-Stearns represented the CNMI in the Port Moresby Pacific Games in Papua New Guinea with the young pair beating Tuvalu in the ranking round to finish eighth among 12 teams.

Football (soccer), tennis, and weightlifting are the other sports to be held in Vanuatu, which the CNMI has an existing federation or group.

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association and Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association will not be sending athletes, while weightlifting has been inactive since winning 12 medals in the 2014 Micronesian Games in Pohnpei.

Rugby, archery boxing, cricket, judo, karate, and netball are the other sports to be played in the 2017 competition.

TSUNAMI

From Page 32

9-year-old swimmer ruled the 9 to 10's 50m butterfly after clocking in at 35.36 seconds and timed in at 1:21.05 in the 100m butterfly.

Other Tsunami Saipan swimmers who earned at least A times were Nanaka and Aika Watanabe, Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero, Miku Tammy, Isaiah Aleksenko, Hans Xu, and Mark Maestro.

Nanaka got B times in the 9 to 10's 50m breaststroke (43.26 seconds) and 100m breaststroke (1:33.30), while Camacho-Deleon Guerrero did the same in the 50m freestyle (33.39 seconds) and 50m butterfly (36.10 seconds).

Nanaka's times are close to CNMI records. She has a strong chance to get CNMI records in December. We are looking forward to seeing Nanaka's record breaking show. Anthony did not come to many practices because of different reasons. In the split, he put out a good time. Finally, he is now focusing to practice and we look forward to his success," Kimura said.

Tammy raced in the 13 to 14 age group and bagged AA times in the 50m butterfly (32.58 seconds or .10 of a second behind the CNMI age group record) and 100m backstroke (1:18.22), while 9 to 10 division's Aleksenko and Xu had similar achievements in the 50m butterfly (36.67 seconds) and 50m freestyle (33.99 seconds) and 50m backstroke (41.68 seconds) and 100m backstroke (1:29.92), respectively.

Maestro also competed in the 50m backstroke and posted an A mark with his 38.62 seconds, while Aika's A times were registered in the 50m backstroke (38.60 seconds), 100m backstroke (1:25.64), and 50m freestyle (33.52 seconds).

Nine other Tsunami Saipan swimmers earned slots for the Guam meet with Nelson Batallones, Juhn Tenorio, Asaka and Shoko Litulumar, Ayumi Obligacion, Arman Rechucher, and Aasish Dangol marking BB times and Takumi Sugie and Angel De Jesus placing first in the 50m freestyle.

"We will try to have more qualifiers in the upcoming tournaments," Kimura said.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	24	15	.615	—
Boston	20	19	.513	4
New York	20	21	.488	5
Brooklyn	11	28	.282	13
Philadelphia	4	36	.100	20½

Southeast Division

Atlanta	23	16	.590	—
Miami	22	17	.564	1
Orlando	20	18	.526	2½
Washington	18	19	.486	4
Charlotte	18	20	.474	4½

Central Division

Cleveland	27	9	.750	—
Chicago	22	15	.595	5½
Indiana	22	17	.564	6½
Detroit	21	17	.553	7
Milwaukee	16	25	.390	13½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	34	6	.850	—
Dallas	22	18	.550	12
Memphis	21	19	.525	13
Houston	21	19	.525	13
New Orleans	12	26	.316	21

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	28	12	.700	—
Utah	17	21	.447	10
Portland	17	24	.415	11½
Denver	15	24	.385	12½
Minnesota	12	28	.300	16

Pacific Division

Golden State	36	3	.923	—
L.A. Clippers	26	13	.667	10
Sacramento	15	23	.395	20½
Phoenix	13	27	.325	23½
L.A. Lakers	9	31	.225	27½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2015 SACAN Basketball League West Division Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

GMJ/IKKI Wholesale players and supporters pose with their championship trophy after beating Blue Haus, 81-75, in the west division finals of the 2015 San Antonio Community Action Network Basketball League after eliminating GMJ/IKKI Wholesale, 103-92, last Saturday at the San Antonio court.

Blue Haus' Angelo Fernando pulls up for a jumper against GMJ/IKKI's J.R. Barrios, left, and Juan Camacho.

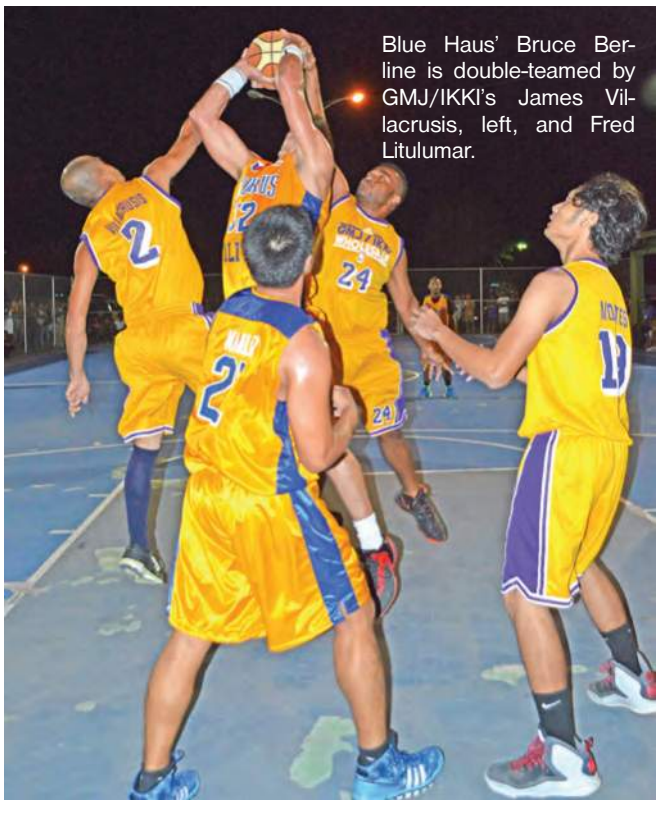
Blue Haus' Bart Demapan drives to the baseline against GMJ/IKKI's Ignacio Borja.

Blue Haus' Marlon De Dios goes up for a running shot against GMJ/IKKI's James Villacrusis.

GMJ/IKKI's Ignacio Borja floats for a shot against Blue Haus' Brendon Talania.

Blue Haus' Bruce Berline shuts down the baseline on a driving GMJ/IKKI's James Villacrusis.

Blue Haus' Manolo Manalo releases a layup from the baseline.



Blue Haus' Bruce Berline is double-teamed by GMJ/IKKI's James Villacrusis, left, and Fred Litulumar.

Curry scores 38 but Warriors lose to Nuggets, 112-110

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Sports

Rollers 1 nears elimination round sweep

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Tan Holdings vs Joeten in finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tan Holdings arranged a finals date against Joeten after whipping McDonald's, 77-49, in the deciding Game 3 of their semis series in the 2nd JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Wednesday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The highly favored Tan Holdings, which missed a series sweep last Monday after McDonald's pulled the rug under the top-ranked squad in Game 2, 75-74, made sure there will be no more upset, dominating its foe right at the get-go and delivering the killer blows in the final quarter en route to the easy win.

Tan Holdings held McDonald's to three field goals in the first period to build an early double-digit lead, 17-7. R.J. Nonato lifted Tan Holdings in the opening frame, recording 6 of his 12 markers in that period. Four other Tan Holdings players scored in the first canto, including Adrian

See TAN on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tan Holdings' Matt Duenas drives against McDonald's Gil Gapor, right, and Michael Achas during Game 2 of their best-of-three semis series in the JP World caging last Monday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

NMIVA also sending teams to '17 Games

NMIVA PHOTO
Tyce Mister eyes the ball for a return during a game in the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association-organized For the Love of volleyball tournament last February 2015 at the Hyatt Regency Saipan sand court. NMIVA is sending beach volleyball teams to the 2017 Mini Games in Vanuatu.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association will also be sending delegates to the 2017 Pacific Mini Games set from Dec. 2 to 14 in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

NMIVA will be sending two-person teams in the men's and women's beach volleyball events and two coaches or officials for the two-week long sporting conclave to be hosted for the second time by Vanuatu.

NMIVA president Laurie Peterka informed Northern Marianas Sports Association president Michael A. White, through email, that they too would be competing in the 2017 Mini Games.

Athletics will have two male and two female runners with one coach, while golf will have a five-member men's team and one coach bringing to 17—

See NMIVA on Page 30

Tsunami Saipan swimmers make grade

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Seventeen Tsunami Saipan members achieved their goal in the 2015-2016 NMISF Open Swim Meet held last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Coach Hiro Kimura said his swimmers targeted at least BB times in their respective events to qualify for a meet in Guam this May.

"Meeting the standard time in their events was important for our swimmers because it would mean they could compete in the Guam Championships," said Kimura.

The benchmark that the club us using is based on the U.S.A Swimming age group time standards designed to encourage age group swimmers to step their swimming up to the next level. The highest grade is AAAA and the lowest is B.

Ashley Dangol was among the 17 Tsunami Saipan swimmers who made the grade, recording AAAA times in the 50m and 100m butterfly. The

See TSUNAMI on Page 30

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tsunami Saipan swimmers pose for a group photo after the NMISF swim meet last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.